THE TIMES

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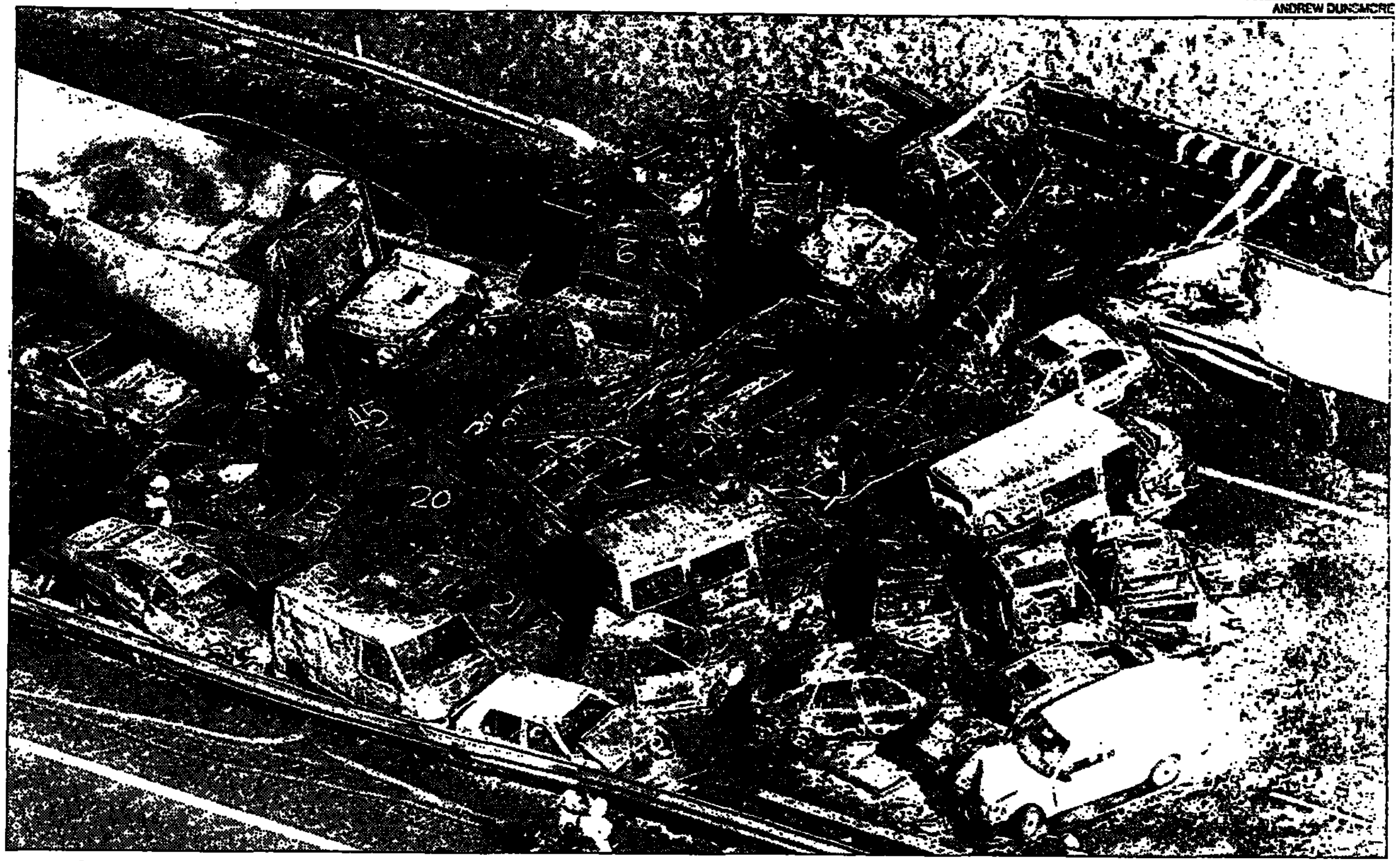
Minister promises enquiry into fog warning lights after motorway crash kills ten, injures 25

ANDREW DUNSMORE



After the crash: the wrecked and burnt-out vehicles covered 60 yards of three lanes of the M4. Twenty vehicles caught fire and a 20-mile stretch of the motorway was closed

Police are blamed for M-way disaster

By Craig Seton and Ray Clancy

AN INVESTIGATION into the use of motorway warning lights was called for last night after ten people died on the M4 in one of Britain's worst road accidents.

Christopher Chope, the roads minister said he was very concerned that warning lights had not been switched on because the police believed that the fog was dense enough for motorists to realise they should slow down.

"As the highway authority, we provide the signs and it is for the police to put them into effect. I am very concerned to hear of the attitude of the police in this case. I expect this is one of the issues we shall be looking at following this awful accident," Mr Chope said.

An informal examination of fog warning lights is already being carried out and it is likely to be stepped up as a result of the multiple pile-up at 6.50am yesterday. Joan Ruddock, the Labour shadow transport minister, said automatic fog warning lights should be installed on all motorways that have a history of dense fog patches.

Forty-five vehicles collided on the London-bound carriageway between Hungerford, Berkshire, and Swindon, Wiltshire. Many bodies were burnt beyond recognition after at least 20 vehicles caught fire and 25 people were injured, five seriously. The last of the bodies was not removed from the wreckage until 12 hours later.

The eastbound carriageway of was shut over a 20-mile stretch and it is not expected to reopen until today. Police had reported that 13 people died in the collision, but the number was reduced to ten after it was discovered that confusion at the scene of the accident and at the mortuary had led to the wrong figure being made public.

Thames Valley police confirmed that the matrix illuminated warning signs on the M4 were not in operation at the time of the crash. "It is the policy of Thames Valley ~~police, and indeed national policy that matrix signs are not used as weather warning~~ signs," a spokesman said. "They were not on at the time of the accident and neither would they have been put on because there was fog. Drivers can see fog. They probably would not have been able to see the signs in the fog anyway."

The police said that matrix signs were used to warn drivers to slow down if there were lane closures, roadworks or traffic accidents ahead.

An immediate police investigation was launched to discover the cause of the crash. Inspector Terry Sharp, a traffic officer, said: "Vehicles were travelling a lot faster and a lot closer than I would have expected in the conditions. They will never learn, will they?"

Four heavy goods lorries were involved, including one carrying propane gas cylinders that exploded. The fuel tanks of other vehicles were also ripped open and burst into flames. Several vehicles were piled on top of each other and 15 vehicles were still alight three hours after the crash happened, as rescuers searched for trapped drivers.

The accident left wreckage spread over 60 yards of the three eastbound lanes as cars, vans and lorries concertinaed into each other. Eyewitnesses spoke of drivers jumping out of their vehicles and running for their lives as vehicles piled up and caught fire.

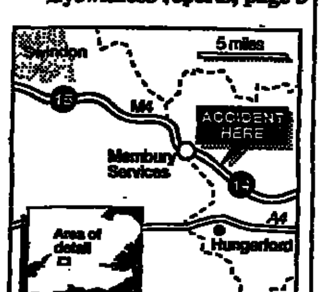
Alan Bateman, a manager from Bristol, was hailed as a hero after he climbed out of his damaged car and ran along the central reservation to try to warn oncoming vehicles of the wreckage ahead. Some drivers sounded their horns at ~~him, however, and drove on towards the scene of the crash.~~

Injured and shocked survivors were found by police and ambulance crews wandering on the eastbound carriageway, and valiant efforts were made to rescue drivers trapped in their burning vehicles.

More than 60 Berkshire fire officers with 10 pumps fought to put out the burning vehicles and at one stage extra supplies of water had to be provided by the Wiltshire fire service. A fleet of ambulances ferried the injured to the Princess Margaret Hospital in Swindon.

Thames Valley police said that the accident was so serious that the Department of Transport would inevitably ask for a full report.

Eyewitness reports, page 3

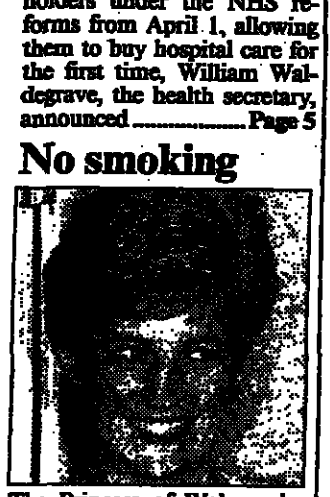


INSIDE

GP budget success

~~More than 300 GP practices in England will become budget~~ holders under the NHS reforms from April 1, allowing them to buy hospital care for the first time, William Waldegrave, the health secretary, announced .... Page 5

No smoking



The Princess of Wales, who visited an anti-cigarette exhibition in London on No Smoking Day, made it clear that no smoking was allowed in her house .... Page 24

Minister out

Serbia's opposition claimed a victory in its anti-communist campaign by forcing the resignation of the interior minister .... Page 12

Indian poll

A test for India's unstable democracy lies ahead as MPs were told to prepare for an election in late May. The dissolution of the parliament ended a week of political uncertainty .... Page 13

Aspirin cure

The humble and cheap aspirin could save thousands of lives a year by cutting the risk of heart attacks and strokes by at least 25 per cent, according to a British researcher ... Page 18

Smaller gap

Britain's current account deficit was much smaller last year than originally estimated, said the Central Statistics Office in a statement which stunned City analysts .... Page 25

Pressure game

Rob Andrew, who plays for England in their five nations' championship decider against France at Twickenham on Saturday, discusses the pressures which face modern-day rugby union players... Page 36

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Violent desert storms follow Gulf war

~~Destruction of the age-old desert pebble cover during~~ the Gulf conflict will lead to encroaching dunes and dust, Nick Nuttall writes

DRAMATIC increases in the number of violent sandstorms and of dunes encroaching on airports, agricultural settlements and cities is being predicted as a consequence of the Gulf war. Scientists using satellite imaging technology have found evidence that the "desert pavement" in the region has been broken across huge areas by the movements of allied and Iraqi armies and armoured vehicles, and the building of hundreds of miles of military fortifications.

The desert pavement, a shield of pebbles laid down over thousands of years, ranges from the size of a pea to a walnut. Its presence makes it difficult for even strong winds to dislodge the dust and sands below and helps make surrounding regions habitable by protecting developments from erosion.

The pavement's destruction has been identified by Farouk el-Baz, an Egyptian-born geologist, who is head of Boston university's centre for remote sensing in America.

Pebbles which have laid undisturbed on the desert surface for some time acquire a "desert varnish" of magnesium and iron oxides which absorb light. The breaking of the pavement leads to more light being emitted, which can be clearly seen by satellites that have imaged the desert before and after the war.

Dr el-Baz claims that the

Continued on page 24, col 6

Iraq admits rising against Saddam

By Our Foreign Staff

STREET protests were reported in Baghdad suburbs yesterday as the Iraqi government admitted for the first time that the country is gripped by an uprising against President Saddam Hussein.

Reports of unrest in Baghdad were confirmed by the State Department in Washington, as it appeared that the Kurds were having success in the northern areas of the country but the government might be recovering ground from the rebels in the south. The large number of refugees now in the eastern margins of the country along the border with Iran testified to the confusion around Basra.

The admission of the revolt came in a government newspaper which accused the United States of trying to fragment the country. Tehran Radio claimed that there were "massive demonstrations" in several parts of Baghdad which led to clashes in which a number of people from both sides were killed or wounded.

Reports from the Dawa Party in exile in London said there was unrest in the Baghdad suburbs of Al-Thawra and Al-Dura. Anti-Saddam elements were said to have taken control of the city of Ramadi 80 miles west of the capital.

Iran radio said battles raged between loyalist forces and rebels both around Basra and the northern oil city of Kirkuk. An opposition Kurdistan Front spokesman said in Damascus that Iraqi loyalist forces had blown up two oil wells in Kirkuk. It is believed the government may want to deprive the rebellious north of oil revenue.

Kurdish rebels were reported tightening their grip on Kurdish areas in the north after purging Sulaymaniya of remaining government troops, the Iranian news agency reported. The agency said the government's crack Republican Guard had meanwhile stepped up attacks with napalm bombs on rebels in Basra. Several big explosions rocked Basra.

It quoted a Basra citizen who crossed into Iran as saying the rebels were again trying to drive loyalist forces out of the city and that the Republican Guard were using napalm. A group of 30 Iraqis wounded by napalm arrived in the Iranian city of Khorramshahr earlier in the week.

The Kurds claimed control of the towns of Jalula, Qareh, Anjir, Kallehjo and Jabbari, IRNA said, quoting a Kurdish refugee. Iraqi Kurds who had surrounded Kirkuk were said to be closing in on government forces. Government artillery had killed several women and children daily in the north, according to one refugee.

PLO initiative, page 10
Famous victory, page 14
Hostage plea, page 24

Property value tax is favourite

By Philip Webster, chief political correspondent

THREE separate options for replacing the community charge with a property tax will be considered by ministers today as the government's review of local government finance reaches a critical stage.

The front-runner last night appeared to be a plan supported by both Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, and Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for a tax based on the capital value of properties but adjusted downwards for small households.

The government appears ready to ride out the threat of a right-wing backlash against the expected abolition of the poll tax and senior ministers have apparently narrowed the options. Speculation was mounting among Conservative MPs yesterday that an announcement about the review's conclusions will come soon. Some even thought it would come after today's cabinet meeting. However, it was being emphasised last night that John Major would not be stampeded into a hasty announcement, and Mr Heseltine insisted in the Commons that he would not be rushed.

During a rowdy debate in the Commons, in which the Opposition exploited the government's discomfort, Mr Heseltine said: "We will continue with our review and we will continue with the timetable that we have put forward. We will conclude our review, we will do it in our own time, we will do it thoroughly."

In a speech in which he gave no clue about the review's outcome, the environment sec-

Continued on page 24, col 1

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Warm touch of spring

By John Young

SPRING arrived in Britain yesterday with temperatures in most parts of the country around 10C (18F) above the average for mid-March. The London weather centre said that the average temperature in England and Wales was between 17 and 18C (63-64F), reaching 20C (68F) in London.

It was, however, far short of the record set on the same date in 1965 when 27C (81F) was recorded in parts of northern and northeast England.

Yesterday, after early fog and mist, most of Britain basked in blue skies and sunshine, although some parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland remained cloudy with patchy rain. It is likely to be cloudier today with the top temperature down to about 15C (59F).

Forecast, page 24

Damascus peace plea

By Our Foreign Staff

JAMES Baker, the US secretary of state, held talks in Damascus yesterday with Syria's President Hafez al-Assad as Damascus Radio said that the government wanted all Middle East problems resolved.

The two discussed post-war regional security, terrorism, hostages in Lebanon and economic development. Mr Baker had a two-hour working luncheon with his Syrian counterpart, Farouk al-Shara.

Damascus Radio said that a post-war regional settlement depended on an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and a guarantee of the Palestinian people's rights.

The daily *al-Baath*, organ of Syria's ruling Baath party, spoke of a need for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Baker mission, page 10

An ideal third world home – for just £100

By Nick Nuttall
Technology correspondent

SANDWICHED between a dream cooker costing close to £1,000 and a state of the art dishwasher stands a modest dwelling costing less than a modern vacuum cleaner.

The £100 home, possibly the most incongruous exhibit to be shown at the Ideal Home exhibition, which opens in London today, is unlikely to enthuse residents of Surrey's stockbroker belt. However, for millions of homeless people in poorer parts of the world the dwelling could be the key to a better quality of life.

The simplistic appearance of the two-room house, the brainchild of experts with Intermediate Technology, a charity based in Rugby, Warwickshire, belies its clever design, environment friendly features and use of materials that are plentiful and cheap in many of the countries it is designed to help.

Local soils are processed and compacted by a levering device to create durable and water-resistant blocks which can perform as well as higher priced concrete blocks. A brick built home would require the energy equivalent of 20 trees to make, whereas the soil blocks need just half a tree.

The home's fibre-reinforced roof tiles use local plant and animal fibres to create a material that is safer than the traditional thatch, cheaper and longer lived than imported corrugated iron and more energy efficient to use than clay.

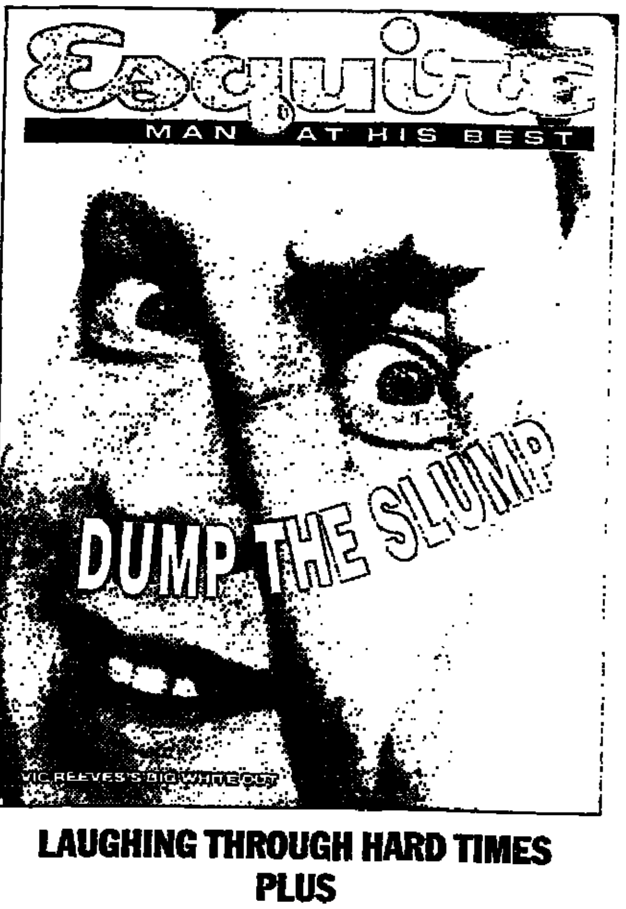
Even the wood-burning cooker, called a Kenyan ceramic jiko stove and which costs about £2, has been computer designed for efficiency. It needs about a quarter less wood than rival stoves which, in parts of the world where charcoal and wood are either expensive or becoming increasingly hard to find, offers significant benefits.

The home is being introduced in Kenya which has an acute and growing housing shortage particularly in urban and semi-urban areas and whose population is growing fast. The United Nations estimates that by 2000 the number of people worldwide who are homeless or living in unhealthy and overcrowded conditions will have reached two billion.

Officials from Intermediate Technology, whose patron is the Prince of Wales, said yesterday that the house was a viable means of easing the third world's chronic housing shortage.

It's the TORY solution to the POLLTAX...
£100 IDEAL HOME.

A BETTER TITLE FOR A MAN



LAUGHING THROUGH HARD TIMES
PLUS
MILAN KUNDERA'S HAUNTING FICTION
THE SECOND LIFE OF MUHAMMAD ALI
SOUTH AFRICA: THE DOGS BITE BLACK
A BESTSELLING JUNKIE'S LAST RIDE
OUT NOW

Heseltine gives last chance to overspenders

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

SEVENTEEN councils which were officially declared at risk of charge capping by the government yesterday are to be given a last chance to think again and reduce spending.

Michael Heseltine, environment secretary, told the Commons that he would not hesitate to use his new and more extensive capping powers against any authority which set an excessive budget. He added: "It is not too late to look again ... to examine again the scope for savings and improving value for money."

The message was echoed by Michael Portillo, his local government minister. He said it was "a matter of concern" that so many councils had set excessive budgets. "It remains open to such authorities to adopt substitute lower budgets if they so wish."

The list announced yesterday included the names of the first four Tory councils to face charge capping — Berkshire, Somerset, Warwickshire and the district council at Langbaurgh on Tees.

Mr Portillo said that the environment secretary would take a decision on which councils should be capped this year "as soon as practicable". Officials said this would be early next month. Local authorities have until midnight on Sunday to submit details of their budgets to Mr Heseltine. Ministers expect to hear from councils who want to revise budgets before Easter.

David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said the announcement showed that the government had no intention of scrapping the poll tax immediately. "This is the action of a secretary of state who knows that we are going to have to live with the poll tax for another three years or more."

Since 21 Labour councils were capped last year the government has strengthened its capping armoury, taking powers not only to reduce budgets but to enforce reductions in poll tax levels too.

Mr Portillo indicated that the government had no intention of softening the capping criteria it set in October. In particular he ruled out suggestions that ministers might overlook cases where spending was only slightly above limits. If confirmed, his decision would bear harshly on Berkshire, which is only £400,000 above its target figure, a fact it blames on a decision by a district council to delay payment of its precept.

The Conservative-led Association of District Councils last night called for the abolition of the community charge and its replacement with a property tax supplemented by a nominal per capita charge.

The councils named as being at risk capping yesterday were: the London boroughs of Greenwich and Lambeth; metropolitan boroughs of Barnsley, Doncaster and Wirral; counties of Berkshire, Somerset and Warwickshire; and the shire districts of Basildon, Bristol, Ipswich, Langbaurgh, Middlesbrough, Milton Keynes, Norwich, Reading and Stoke-on-Trent.

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Letters, page 15

Attack on 'dithering' Major

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ROY Hattersley last night accused the prime minister of dithering over what action to take to resolve the government's difficulties over the poll tax.

The deputy Labour leader seized on the dilemma facing ministers to portray John Major as an indecisive prime minister at the mercy of different wings of his party, the ideologues or those with marginal seats.

Mr Hattersley said that the prime minister could not vacillate and prevaricate much longer over the outcome the government's poll tax review. "We know that he finds it almost impossible to take difficult decisions, particularly decisions which may offend some of his supporters and tarnish his image as the man who is nice to everybody," he said.

Mr Major's procrastination over the poll tax review had made the Tory party and himself look ridiculous, Mr Hattersley told a rally in South Wales to launch Labour's campaign in the Neath by-election. Accusing Mr Major of being the most indecisive prime minister since Anthony Eden, Mr Hattersley said: "Harder men than he will soon insist on the government making a decision. Clearly the decision will not be taken by John Major He is allowing himself to be blown and buffeted about by Michael Heseltine from one side and Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, on the other."

DAN DICKINSON

YOUR SOUL TAX PAID
BY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
HEAR OF HIS OFFER IN THIS CHURCH
EACH SUND... 6.30

Soulful: a heavenly alternative to the poll tax in Brixton, south London

Minister points finger at Labour over poll tax

By PETER MULLIGAN AND ROBERT MORGAN

MICHAEL Heseltine yesterday sought to make political capital out of poll tax levels charged by Labour councils, but gave MPs no clue about the outcome of his review.

In a highly charged Commons debate, the environment secretary said that Labour-run authorities across the country levied a higher community charge than those controlled by Conservatives.

He warned electors that voting Labour meant, on average, an extra £78 on the poll tax bill. "Never let it be said that a Labour vote doesn't cost you money," he said.

The government would finish its review of local government finance in its own time, he said. "We will do it thoroughly and when we produce it, we will command the support of the country," he said.

Seventeen authorities risked charge-capping and should think again, because it was not too late to find savings, Mr Heseltine said.

Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, ridiculed the poll tax and the review, describing Mr Heseltine and the prime minister as "the blond leading the bland".

In a speech loudly cheered by Labour MPs, Mr Gould said that the poll tax produced tragic results and misery among those who had to pay and farce in government ranks.

Hardly a day went by without a new idea, each more ludicrous than the last — a head tax, a floor tax, a skull tax, a bed and breakfast tax, a capital value tax, a bedroom tax. It seemed that there was no architectural feature nor part of the anatomy that the government had not thought of tackling. Mr Heseltine kept dropping ideas "as fast and frequently as Brian Rix dropped his trousers".

He taunted Mr Heseltine with failing to come up with a scheme that commanded majority support, and described Tory MPs who barracked his speech as a "disreputable rabble" showing their desperation. Highlighting Tory divisions over retention of the poll tax, Mr Gould said that the party was cracking along fault lines that ran deep.

Mr Gould called for abolition of the tax, offering Labour co-operation for the necessary legisaltion, and urged adoption of Labour's plan for modernised rates, which, he said, would benefit seven in ten households.

David Wilshire, Tory MP for Spelthorne, said that the Conservative party was in danger of being panicked by Labour and the media. The government had to respond to the message of last week's Tory defeat at Ribble Valley, but should not be panicked into creating something that, like the community charge, had not been thought through.

OPTIONS FOR REFORM

Modified Poll Tax

Modifying the poll tax has strong support on the right of the Conservative party. By taking education, police and fire services out of local authority control, supporters argue that community charge bills could be reduced to less than £200.

Every state school would be given grant maintained status and school governors would receive an annual Treasury grant. Fire and police authority boundaries would be redrawn to create fewer, larger forces along the lines of proposals already drawn up by the Association of Chief Police Officers.

For

Preserves the principle that everyone must pay but lightens the burden on individuals.

Against

Switching education to central funding would cost the Treasury at least £5 billion a year and local planning of schools and police would become even more remote.

Back to the rates

A return to the rating system that existed until April 1990 offers the fastest route out of the poll tax maze. Councils still hold rating registers and valuation lists. The fact that Labour has espoused the idea makes it politically unattractive to many Tories as does the fact that rating valuation figures are 18 years old. Revaluation would take two years and produce a new set of winners and losers.

Labour says that if it won a June election the rates would be back from April 1, 1992.

For

Simple to implement. Cost falls broadly on those best able to pay. Much cheaper to collect than poll tax.

Against

Raises unfairness of single person paying as much as family of four adults next door. Without changes new bills would be higher than 1989/90 rates.

Capital Property Tax

Reported to be Michael Heseltine's favoured solution, capital valuation would be introduced in two stages. Intially properties would be grouped in broad bands, probably according to the number of bedrooms. Building society house price figures would be used to set values for each band area by area.

Later a full revaluation could be carried out to assign individual values to each property. An alternative would be to revalue on sale with the purchase price becoming the new rateable value.

For

Easy to understand. Could be applied to council houses and flats valued routinely under right to buy. Firm link between taxation and ability to pay.

Against

Would accentuate difference between types of property and parts of the country.

Room Tax

An alternative means of valuing property would be to set a notional value on each bedroom or reception room and calculate the value of a house or flat from that figure.

Derided by Labour as the "bedroom tax" the proposal would require councils to keep a close check on extensions and loft conversions to ensure that occupiers were not evading the tax. Unlikely to be adopted.

For

Provides an element of per capita taxation on the assumption that most bedrooms in a house will be occupied by at least one person who benefits from local services.

Against

Difficult to administer, requiring internal inspection of homes.

Local Head Tax

As a supplement to a local property tax, a head tax would retain the principle that everyone should pay something towards the cost of local services while reducing individual poll tax bills to about £100.

It could be levied using the community charge register or the electoral roll, with bills sent to individuals. Alternatively householders could be required to collect the tax on the basis of information supplied by them about the number of adults at their home.

Michael Heseltine is said to favour a third option of charging all householders the equivalent of three poll taxes and granting rebates if they can show there are fewer than three adults living at the same address.

For

Ensures that councils are accountable to all their residents. Reduces the amount that needs to be raised through the rates. Less easy to evade than the community charge.

Against

Collection costs would consume up to a quarter of revenue. Would require spot checks on homes to ensure that additional adults had not moved in.

Local Income Tax

The solution favoured by the Liberal Democrats, local income tax has been studied by Labour and rejected on the grounds that it would cost too much to collect.

The Inland Revenue would have to add the local tax rate to the marginal rate charged to taxpayers and then forward the proceeds to up to 449 councils in England and Wales. Government figures show that to cover current spending councils would need to add between 3.9p in the pound (Isles of Scilly) and 14.5p (Greenwich) to existing rates of income tax.

For

The ultimate guarantee that taxation is related to ability to pay.

Against

Complex and expensive. Would create a cycle of deprivation in inner cities, driving out those with well-paid jobs, increasing burden on remaining local taxpayers.

Local Sales Tax

The Treasury has severe misgivings about giving councils the power to raise taxes which could affect national economic performance, although advocates argue that local business pressures would force councils to moderate demands.

In any event the plan is likely to fall foul of EC attempts to harmonise sales taxes throughout the Community. An alternative would be to guarantee councils a share of nationally raised VAT income.

For

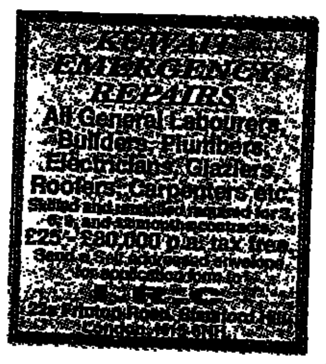
Residents reminded of the cost of local services every time they shop. A share of national VAT revenue would ensure stable tax base.

Against

High local sales taxes would harm local businesses. Would fuel inflation.

Jobless craftsmen conned by £80,000 offer of work

By ROBIN STACEY


KUWAIT EMERGENCY REPAIRS
All General Labourers, Builders, Plumbers, Electricians, Glaziers, Roofers, Carpenters etc.
£25-£80,000 plus tax free
IRC
22a Frinton Road, Stamford Hill

FOR unemployed craftsmen it looked like a dream come true: the chance to earn up to £80,000 a year tax free helping to rebuild war-torn Kuwait.

Thousands of jobless building trade workers in areas of high unemployment saw advertisements in regional newspapers offering contracts of between three and twelve months. They were invited to apply to IRC of 22a Frinton Road, Stamford Hill, N15. Many wasted no time in writing for an application form. Others travelled to London to claim their pitch at the front of the queue.

Hopes of instant rich pickings, however, were quickly dispelled. The applicants received only an "amateurish CV form" and an invitation to forward a £5 non-returnable deposit for administration costs to an address in Regent Street, London.

Hundreds of disappointed and angry job hunters telephoned the newspapers and local trading standards officers. The switchboard of the *Middlesbrough Evening Gazette*, which carried the advertisement twice last week, "practically went into meltdown", according to a telephonist.

Eric Robinson, head of Cleveland Trading Standards Office, said that some people had brought in the forms that they had been sent. "My advice was as long as you were prepared never to see it again, the decision on sending the money was yours."

His London counterparts quickly found that the Regent Street address was an accommodation address. Police were informed. Last night Scotland Yard confirmed that they are investigating the placing of the advertisment.

John Kenning, owner of Hold Everything, a post and message-leaving service, said last night: "Mine is a perfectly legitimate accommodation address business. A woman opened an account with me on Monday in the name of IRC Relay for one month. She was a pleasantly spoken ordinary businesswoman. On the first day I received some 250 letters, and subsequently the police became involved and I do not know how many have come since."

Drop in car sales 'will mean £1bn tax loss'

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE dramatic decline in car sales could cost the exchequer more than £1.1 billion in lost revenue, the equivalent of 1p on income tax, leaders of Britain's 13,000 car dealers and garages told Norman Lamont, the chancellor, yesterday.

The figures were published to underline the urgency with which the motor industry believes the chancellor should cut interest rates to revive sales. Motor industry leaders are increasingly concerned at the effect of the recession on their business with sales down 26 per cent in February, the fourteenth consecutive monthly fall.

The Retail Motor Industry Federation (RMI) says that the government will also have to consider the amount of tax revenues being lost from one of its biggest contributors to Treasury funds. The continuing decline in sales will drastically reduce the amount of money brought into the Treasury, from tax on car sales, fuel, VAT and vehicle excise duty, as well as car servicing.

If sales fall this year by 400,000 cars, about 20 per cent, the RMI calculates the Treasury will lose income of £1.175 billion, including £565 million from VAT on new and used vehicles, £300 million from the ten per cent special car tax, and £80 million on fuel sales. The yield from VAT on car repairs and servicing will also be cut by £150 million. Nearly £18 billion is taken annually in taxes from the private motorist and road haulage industry. A £1.1 billion drop would be a significant loss.

☐ Diesel cars will have to replace petrol cars if emissions of carbon dioxide, one of the main greenhouse gases, are to be curbed significantly, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday.

Increase in complaints against banks

By PETER VICTOR

THE number of people complaining about mistakes or shoddy treatment by their banks is increasing, according to the banking ombudsman. New complaints to last September increased by 45 per cent over the previous year. In 1988 they increased by 20 per cent and in 1989 by 30 per cent.

The ombudsman's report details some of the many complaints he has received. One bank, ordered to transfer $500 to a customer's daughter who was travelling in America did not get the money to her for 31 days. As a result she had to sleep rough. Another bank credited a fraudster's account with a stolen £4,500 cheque even though it was crossed "not negotiable", and then gave him special clearance so that he could withdraw the cash.

Chris Eadie, the assistant banking ombudsman, said yesterday that complaints were increasing as people became aware of the banking watchdog. "More people know about their right to bring complaints," he said.

Recent newspaper reports that a Midland Bank manager charged £25 for a brief talk with a customer brought an angry response yesterday. The National Federation of Self-Employeed and Small Businesses warned members: "If you are going out to lunch with you bank manager (at his or your own invitation) then we seriously warn you to ensure that the bank will not be charging you for the manager's lunch time. If you don't check then you could find a mysterious charge for the social event on your next bank statement."

Stephen Alambritis, spokesman for the federation, added: "The most common complaint from our members is about the growing number of willy-nilly charges being imposed. It is all getting out of hand. There is nothing more irrating to businessmen, who are probably working seven days a week, than to see the banks lashing out on glitzy and expensive advertising campaigns knowing they are paying for it through additional and unfair charges."

Bob Jameson, of National Westminster Bank, said that the bank aimed to provide the best service for its customers. "I can't say we always get it right, but this is a service industry and we deal with six-and-a-half million personal customers and two million business customers. We don't charge for people speaking to bank managers and we like to think we get it right most of the time."

Leading article, page 15

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‘One big fireball and those poor devils did not stand a chance’

Survivors speak of courage amid the carnage on the M4

By Craig Seton

A SCENE of carnage and horror was described by witnesses to the M4 crash. They told of vehicles erupting in flames, trapping their occupants, rivers of burning fuel on the carriageway and desperate efforts to free the injured from wreckage amid the blazing fires.

One survivor ran along the central reservation trying to stop oncoming vehicles after the initial crash. Although some stopped, other motorists sounded their horns and continued driving through the fog and into the burning wreckage.

Witnesses spoke of the heroism of a police Land Rover crew who used their vehicle to drag a damaged van from the inferno, its driver still trapped in his seat. The first firemen on the scene had to be doused in water as they fought to free a driver from his cab as flames inched closer and turned their jets of water to steam.

Dazed survivors were found wandering on the motorway and its hard shoulder. Others jumped from their vehicles and ran for their lives to escape crashing vehicles.

Forty-five vehicles, including four heavy goods lorries, were involved in the pile-up at 6.50am, when the eastbound carriageway was already busy with commuters where it cuts through the rolling Berkshire countryside. Almost 100 yards of carriageway was littered with burning, twisted wreckage as cars, vans and lorries crashed into each other in the fog with such force that some cars rode up onto the roofs of vehicles in front. Experienced emergency service personnel were shocked by the scene.

David Foskett, Berkshire's deputy chief ambulance officer, said: "It is the most horrendous sight I have ever seen. The fire overwhelmed these people, and they did not stand a chance."

One driver, George Greenwood, of Bristol, said: "I am just glad to be out alive. I was about 50 yards from the initial crash and had to screech to a halt. I think a lorry had jackknifed, but it was foggy and difficult to see what had happened. There was one big fireball and those poor devils did not stand a chance."

Another survivor, Kevin Hanson, a salesman, said: "It is so horrifying to see it in real life. You do not realise how overwhelming it all is. If you are trapped in your car and it catches fire there is very little chance."

Another witness, David Marsh, of the *Automobile* Association, said: "It is a terrible, terrible sight. Dozens of vehicles are just piled on top of each other. Some are on fire, and there are injured people wandering around.

"There are heavy lorries that do not even seem like lorries any more — just frames of twisted metal. The wreckage spreads over 100 yards across all three lanes and across the hard shoulder. And behind that there are lines of vehicles that have gone into the back of each other."

One articulated lorry came perilously to rest halfway up the embankment alongside the crash scene, its cab at right angles to the trailer.

The first fire crew at the scene saw a river of burning fuel on the carriageway, running towards a lorry whose driver was trapped. The firemen and the lorry's cab were sprayed with water as the fire crew worked to cut the driver from his cab. A fireman said: "The heat was so intense that the water was turning to steam as soon as it left their hoses."

Howard Vincent, aged 36, of Swindon, who was travelling to Heathrow with Den Hastings, aged 31, said: "All I can remember was that the carriageway was blocked right across. We managed to brake hard and stop near the central reservation. Suddenly, someone hit us from behind. It was a car, and it suddenly exploded in a ball of fire. We both got out of the driver's door and ran for our lives. I was terrified."

Mr Hastings said: "There was glass showering all over the place. I could hear the sound of skidding as other cars slewed into each other."

David Allen, an ambulance officer, said at the scene: "About 20 cars, vans and lorries were involved in the conflagration, and they had concertinaed on top of each other. All the vehicles are on fire or are burnt out, and it is very unlikely the drivers would have been unable to get out. It is a mass of twisted and tangled metal and I can see at least four bodies in one car."

Cakes from a bakery vehicle were strewn among "a scene of total horror", Mr Allen said.

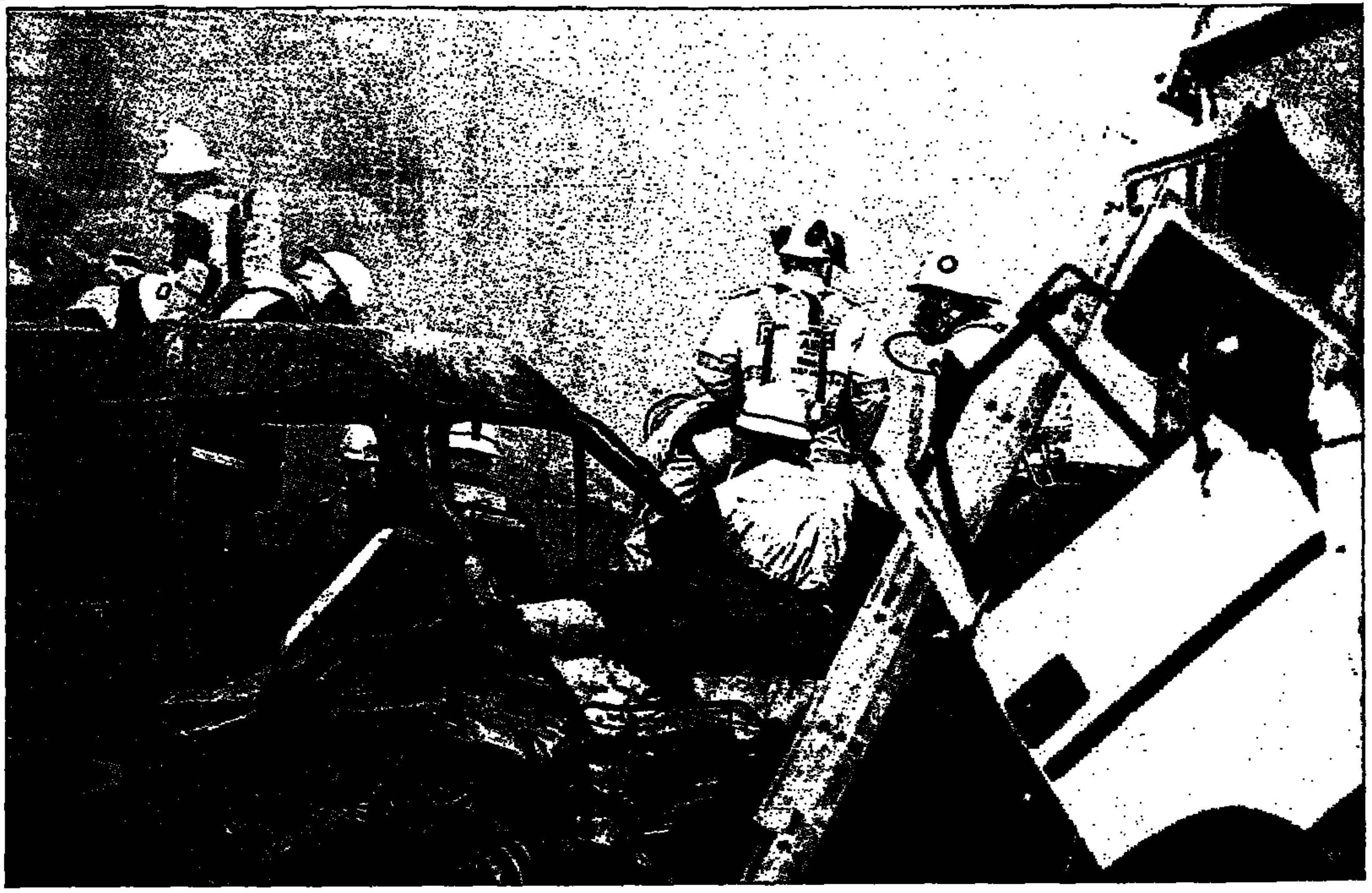
Ten killed, page 1

Man tried to warn others

Alan Bateman, above, from Bristol, risked his own life after being involved in the crash to try to save others. He left his damaged car and ran along the central reservation waving at motorists to warn them to slow down.

Lee Dodds, aged 23, from south Wales, a passenger in a van that crashed into the embankment, said: "There was this man on the central reservation flagging us down. I just caught sight of him and if it were not for him there would have been a lot more casualties."

Mr Bateman, aged 38, said that some drivers had hooted at him and driven on regardless. He said he did not consider that he had acted heroically. "It is just something you do at the time."



Firemen helping survivors from vehicles after the M4 pile-up yesterday. Rescuers had to be doused with water as they worked amid fire

Modern cars ‘cocoon drivers from reality’

By Kevin Eason, motoring correspondent

PSYCHOLOGISTS who have studied the attitudes of drivers involved in accidents say that the feeling of security engendered in the modern car, with its stereo system, plush seats and smooth suspension, gives no clues of dangers ahead. Instead, drivers feel confident, sometimes aggressive, and insulated from other traffic.

The feeling is so widespread that scientists now believe that only more intensive driver training and the increased use of technology can help to prevent motorway accidents. Dr David Lewis, an independent consultant writing a book on driver behaviour, said last night: "Motoring is now simply too dangerous to be left to the motorist ... the government cannot allow that to go on."

He says that electronic "buffers", which sense the distance of the vehicle in front, could prevent cars getting too close on crowded motorways by automatically slowing them down if they encroached within a minimum distance. Speed warnings, which sound an alarm when the speed limit is exceeded, could also be introduced.

Dr John Groeger, who works in the Cambridge-based applied psychology department of the Medical Research Council, says that simple inexperience means that drivers are unable to cope with unusual conditions.

He said the driving test was not extensive enough and suggested that drivers should take tests based on specific areas of experience, such as passing a motorway test. The speed of drivers, he said, was absorbed by the lack of noise, the warmth of the car and the distraction of the radio.

On motorways, that feeling of security over long periods gave way to "highway hypnosis" as the motorist fell into a trance-like state. When an emergency happened, drivers often over-reacted, slamming on the brakes and forcing drivers behind into a series of collisions.

Dr Groeger said: "Our ability to assess the risks diminishes because many of us feel confident behind the wheel. Many people think they are wonderful drivers, which makes them drive aggressively although they do not want to be involved in accidents. On motorways, that situation is aggravated because there is little stimulation."

Euro drivers shock 55mph US

From John Phillips in Paris, Ian Murray in Bonn and Charles Bremner in New York

THE pile-up on the M4 yesterday reminded French officials of an accident on July 31, 1982, when 53 people were killed, including 44 children, and led to sweeping reforms of traffic regulations. The accident, near the town of Beaune north of the city of Dijon on the main autoroute to the south, involved a bus and shocked French opinion.

Last June, 14 British tourists were killed in two separate road accidents in France on the same day, including 11 who died when the bus they were travelling at 77 mph fell into a ditch and overturned after one of its tyres blew up.

Germany is still divided by its road accident statistics, and unification saw a staggering 139 per cent increase last year in the number of fatal crashes on the 1,200 miles of motorways in the east, where a maximum speed limit of 62.5 mph is still in force. There are 5,500 miles of motorway in western Germany, with speed limits on around 10 per cent of them and a recommended, unenforced, top speed of 81 mph on the rest.

Safety on American roads is far higher than anywhere in Europe except for some of the Scandinavian countries. The speed limit of either 55 or 65 mph — depending on the state — is held to account for the lower accident rate. In some states, such as New York, the 55-mile limit is strictly enforced.

Americans think Europeans are mad to drive the speed they do, particularly since European cars are so small and underpowered by American standards. But pile-ups occur fairly often on US roads, nearly always in fog.

Police agree £105,000 damages for judge

By David Young

A CROWN court judge has been awarded £105,000 in damages from the Metropolitan Police in settlement of an action for malicious prosecution on a kerb-crawling charge and abuse of public office.

Colin Hart-Leverton, QC, aged 54, claimed that the police had prosecuted him on the basis of fabricated evidence, his counsel told the High Court in London yesterday. The police denied liability but agreed to pay damages and all Mr Hart-Leverton's legal costs.

Mr Hart-Leverton was convicted of soliciting women for the purpose of prostitution and fined £200 at Wells Street magistrates court in February 1986 on the evidence of two police officers. He had his conviction quashed at Knightsbridge crown court in March 1986 after his counsel complained that the police evidence showed "inconsistencies, inaccuracies and incredibilities".

Mr John McDonnell, QC, for Mr Hart-Leverton, said yesterday that his client, after his acquittal, had made a complaint to the Police Complaints Authority and instituted legal proceedings against the Metropolitan Police. As a result of the complaint, one of the officers was found guilty in disciplinary proceedings of "knowingly making a false statement which detailed events which he did not know to be true", and the other was "directed to be advised by a senior officer".

Mr Hart-Leverton, in a statement issued after the hearing, said: "No one can now doubt my innocence. I have been acquitted and have been paid compensation by the Metropolitan Police."

The Metropolitan Police said: "The commissioner wishes to point out that liability in the action brought by Mr Hart-Leverton is denied and that the action has been settled as a result of both parties' desire to seek a compromise."

Hart-Leverton: "No one can doubt my innocence"

Saturday Review

Yes, prime ministers

'One of the great survivors, he has ridden the crest of yet another political wave, his feet are on the board and he is still surfing'

Kenneth Baker, once wet, once dry, talks to Polly Toynbee about John Major's middle way and his own role in its realisation

Here isn't the News

Charles Bremner on the violent strike that crippled the legendary *New York Daily News*, now poised between extinction and revival

Is you is or is you ain't?

Peter Ackroyd finds evidence that American lyricists are an insecure breed

Saturday's *Times*: order it to be sure of it

Conviction of Six ‘had firm basis’

By Stewart Tendler

THE Birmingham Six were convicted on overwhelming evidence in 1975 and rightly lost their appeal in 1987 due to the strength of the case against them, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday as counsel for the Director of Public Prosecutions replied to the new appeal. On one view, a formidable case remained, Graham Boal, senior treasury counsel, said.

He added that the DPP accepted that the convictions could no longer be considered both "safe" and "satisfactory", but suggested there was a distinction between the two words. The DPP felt the convictions to be unsatisfactory, "but the court should be slower to find if they are unsafe". Mr Boal said that, where a retrial was impractical, the distinction might let a court quash a conviction although satisfied as to guilt.

Lord Justice Lloyd said Mr Boal seemed to support the appeal case on one hand, and on the other to be engaged in "damage limitation".

The appeal continues today.

Peers want ship reprieved

By Sheila Gunn, political correspondent

AN ALLIANCE of some of the most eminent peers is demanding a reprieve for the Antarctic patrol ship HMS Endurance, the symbol of Britain's victory in the Falklands war.

Although no government announcement has been made, the peers said yesterday that they believed the defence ministry planned to scrap the ship as part of the navy's cutbacks.

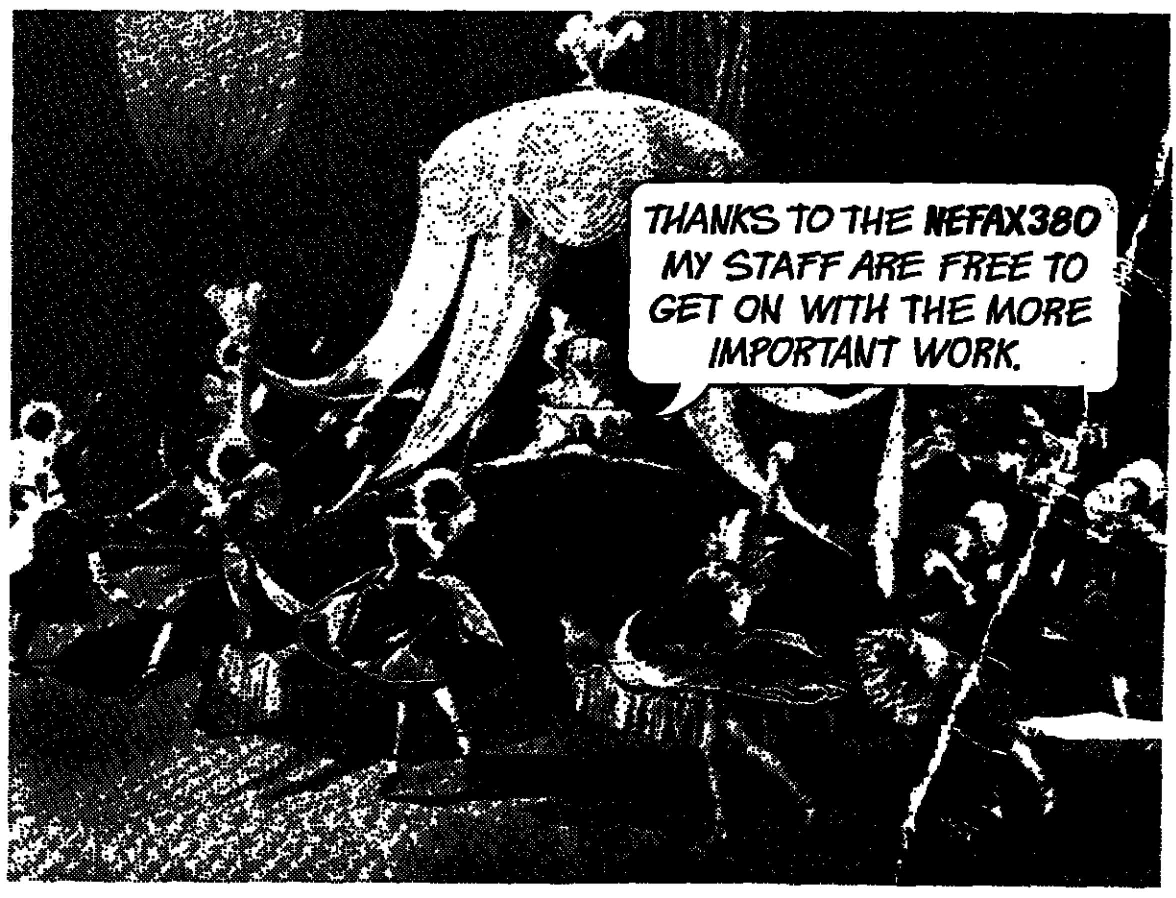
The peers uniting to save her include the former prime minister Lord Callaghan of Cardiff and other former ministers, Lords Shackleton, Carrington, Pym, Jellicoe and Chalfont, together with Lord Lewin, the former chief of defence staff.

News of the ministry's plans to withdraw the ship from the south Atlantic in 1981 sent a signal to Argentina of Britain's reduced interest in the Falklands, provoking the invasion. HMS Endurance survived as the navy's only presence in the area in the weeks before the task force arrived. She also rescued British scientists and two wildlife filmmakers from South Georgia.

The red-painted ship became a household name after her two Wasp helicopters sunk the Argentine submarine Santa Fe off South Georgia. The 3,500-tonne ship, built by Denmark in 1956, was armed with only two 20mm heavy machine guns. With running costs of around £3 million a year her role is to visit the research stations in the Antarctic and as a guard ship for the Falklands.

Lord Shackleton, Lord Pym, Lord Lewin, Lord Chalfont and Lord Jellicoe were among the peers who called for assurances about the ship's future in the Lords yesterday. They argued that while other countries were increasing their presence in the Antarctic, Britain appeared to want a reduction.

A government whip, Lord Reay, said that an early decision was expected and promised to pass on the comments to Tom King, the defence secretary. He added that Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, would be told of the plans after peers pointed out that the Foreign Office had not been consulted over the 1981 plan.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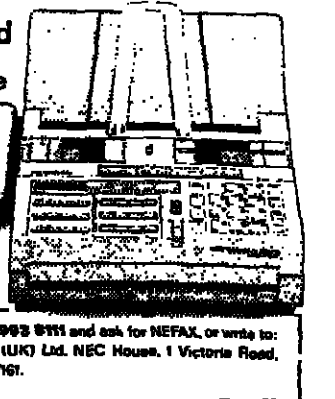

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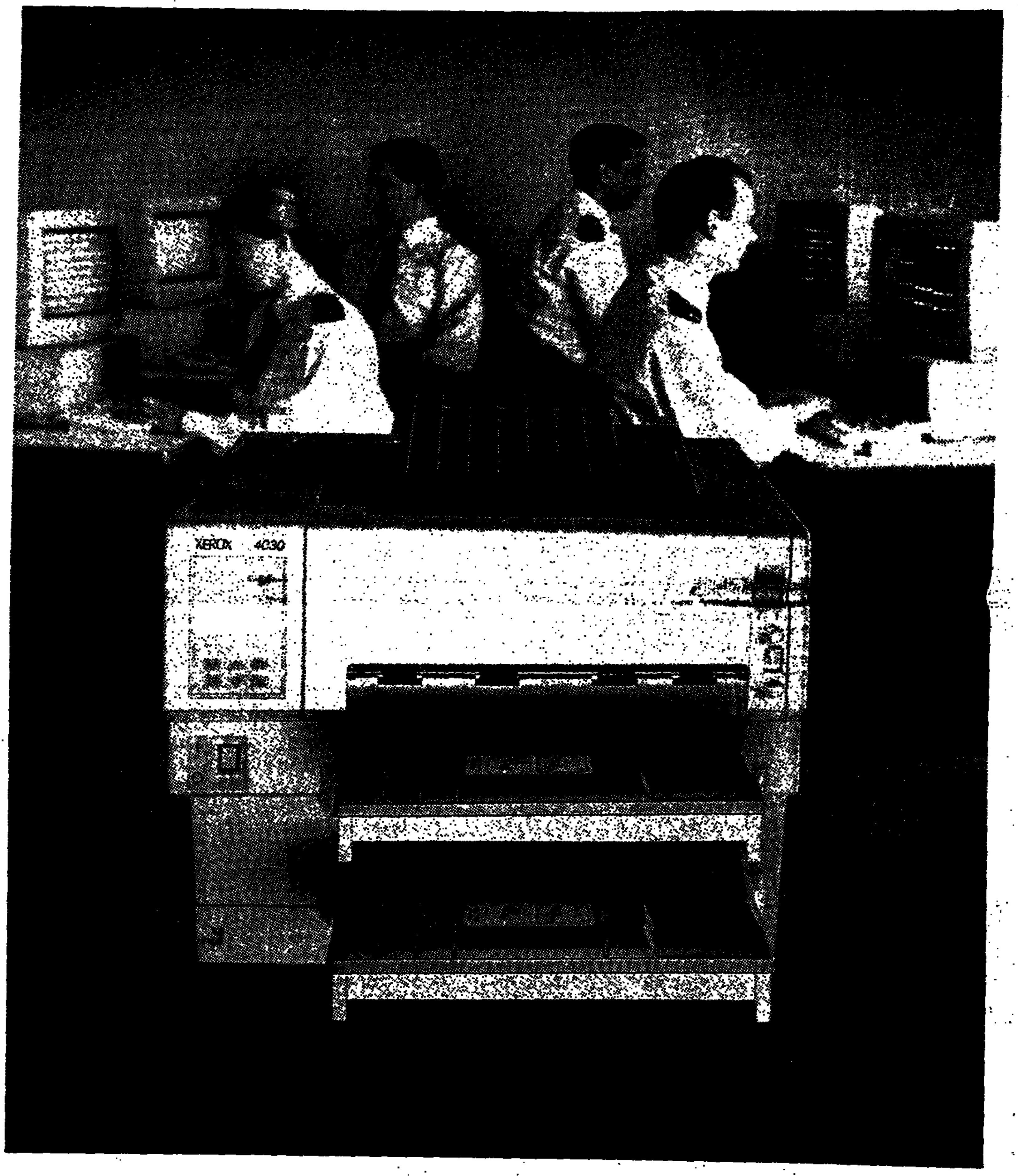

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300 GP practices to run their own budgets from April

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

MORE than 300 GP practices in England will become budget holders under the health service reforms from April 1, allowing them to buy hospital care for the first time, William Waldegrave, the health secretary, announced yesterday.

Mr Waldegrave told the Commons that the 306 practices, which included 1,720 doctors, cared for 3.6 million patients, or 7.5 per cent of the population. Under the scheme, practices with more than 9,000 patients will be given budgets, understood to average more than £1 million each, to pay for staff, drugs and some hospital services in the state and private sectors.

Budget holders will be free to decide how they spend their money within these categories. Profits can be ploughed back into the service according to guidance to be issued by the health department.

The British Medical Association immediately gave a warning that budget holders would be able to jump NHS waiting lists and ordinary GPs would find it harder to refer patients outside their own health district. A spokesman said: "If that happened we would have a two-tier service with a vengeance."

The scheme was welcomed, however, by the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, which said that there was evidence that services were improving. "GP fund holders are going for quality and therefore getting hospitals to change their systems."

Mr Waldegrave said that a further 350 practices were keen to join the scheme next year. In the meantime the health department is setting up pilot studies to test the feasibility of practices with fewer than 9,000 patients joining the scheme.

He announced £250,000 to fund a series of two-year demonstration projects in Oxford, Merseyside, the South and the South-West. Volunteers for the first wave of the scheme had already shown their determination to raise the quality of services. "There is no doubt that empowering general practitioners directly as purchasers of care will be one significant means of improving the quality of services to patients," Mr Waldegrave said.

Labour MPs pressed the health secretary to explain what happened when budget-holding practices ran out of money. Mr Waldegrave indicated that regional health authorities would pick up the bill for justified overspending.

"If there are costs which were not predicted when the budget was set, the GP fund-holder concerned could go to the region for the costs."

Eric Illsley, Labour MP for Barnsley Central, referred to cases where GPs refused to prescribe expensive drugs for fear of exceeding their budgets. "Are you going to implement any further safeguards in relation to high-cost drugs, in particular child growth hormone?" he asked. Mr Waldegrave replied: "We have no plans to change the arrangements in this respect."

☐ Health authorities need to spend at least £2 billion to bring ageing hospital buildings up to modern standards, according to the the Audit Commission. Howard Davies, the commission's controller, said yesterday that many NHS buildings had been inadequately maintained and that money would also have to be spent on meeting safety standards such as fire precautions and measures to prevent legionnaires' disease.

Doctor prepares to shop for the best medical buy

Jill Sherman visits a GP who sees the new budgets as a chance to offer an innovative and flexible service

FROM April 1, Dr James Carne, a GP in north London, will be able to buy operations from the hospitals of his choice and dictate standards for waiting times and diagnostic tests. He is also approaching hospital consultants to ask them to come to the surgery to see patients twice a week, a quicker and more efficient scheme than the hospital outpatient appointment system, he says.

Dr Carne

❛ Clarke was bulldozing through GPs' contract and NHS reforms ❜

Dr Carne is one of five partners in a group practice in Stamford Hill in the heart of a deprived area. The surgery, which has 13,500 patients on its books, is one of the 306 practices announced yesterday by William Waldegrave, the health secretary, which will be given their own budgets for drugs, staff, and some hospital operations as part of the health service reforms. From next month, those GPs will be able to shop around for the cheapest prices, the shortest waiting lists and the best quality.

Over the past few weeks the Stamford Hill practice has been gearing up for the changes by appointing new staff, including a contracts manager from Marks & Spencer, and getting detailed information on GPs' referral patterns. Computers now store data on where the GPs have referred each patient over the past 12 months, and for which condition. The practice also knows roughly how many operations and outpatient appointments it will have to buy next year.

In theory the contracts manager can advise consultants to change referral patterns if certain hospitals charge high prices. In practice, however, Dr Carne expects hospitals to lower prices if he and his colleagues threaten to withdraw his patients. Dr Carne, who has been with the Stamford Hill practice for 32 years, predicted that in most cases existing referral patterns to St Bartholomew's hospital and the Homerton would contine. Competitive private hospitals may also be used.

Dr Carne chose to become a GP budget holder about 18 months ago, partly to survive in a health service which was crumbling around him and partly to maintain autonomy in a bureaucratic system. "The situation in hospitals was going from bad to worse, waiting lists were getting longer. Trying to get patients admitted to hospital was almost impossible," he said yesterday.

"As it became clear that Kenneth Clarke (former health secretary) was going to bulldoze through both the GPs' contract and the reforms it also became apparent that it would be better to be a fund holder. As long as the budget given to us is big enough it will allow us to be innovative and have greater independence and flexibility." The practice has been given about £1.2 million including £345,000 to cover drugs, over £600,000 for hospital operations and the remainder for staff costs.

Stamford Hill surgery still has a long way to go, though. Dennis Goide, the contracts manager, admits only two days into the job: "I have not got my feet under the table yet — I have not even got a table."

❛ As long as the budget given to us is big enough it will allow us to be innovative ❜

Decisions on where to place contracts have been frustrated by inexplicable variations in the prices supplied by hospitals. Hammer toe surgery is priced at £1,082 at the Middlesex and only £436 at its neighbouring hospital UCH, both in Bloomsbury.

Critics of the fund-holding scheme have claimed that GPs will run out of money, patients will be refused essential drugs and waiting lists will transfer from hospitals to GP practices. Dr Carne admits he will encourage GPs to prescribe cheaper drugs if they are equally effective. "My worst fear is that a Labour government will come in and, after all this work, throw it all out."

Rationing remedies, page 19

TONY WHITE

Historical view: pupils of Tidewell school, east London, at an educational play staged at the Queen's House, Greenwich, by student actors

Heseltine wins praise for saving wildlife site

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, won plaudits from conservationists yesterday by intervening at the eleventh hour to block the development of Dorset heathland, regarded as one of the most valuable wildlife sites in Britain.

Mr Heseltine said he proposed to revoke planning permission for up to 200 houses on 17 acres on the edge of Canford Heath, a stretch of countryside near Poole within an area designated as a site of special scientific interest.

Simon Lyster, a senior conservation officer with the World Wide Fund for Nature, said: "This is a fantastic day for conservation. Mr Heseltine should be congratulated for the courage he has shown."

Mr Heseltine's late intervention is thought to be unprecedented. In December the High Court quashed an attempt to challenge the planning permission. Mr Justice Schiemann ruled that Poole borough council had struck a lawful balance between the demands of conservation and the need for more housing.

● A remote tarn near Buttermere in the Lake District is to be named after Alfred Wainwright, the author of more than 50 guides to the hills of Britain, who died in January aged 84.

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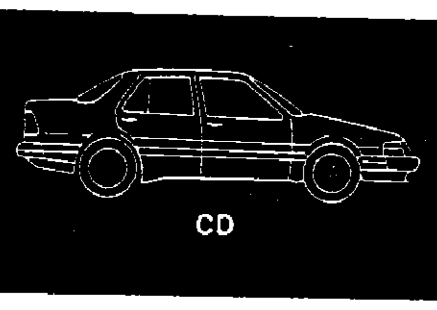
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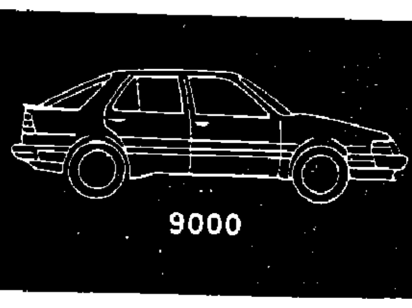
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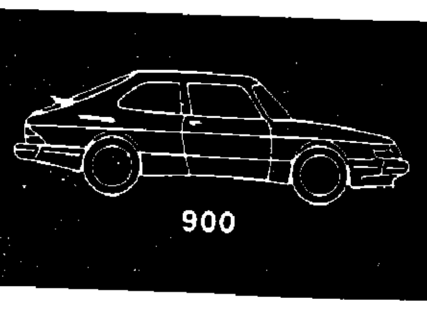
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High-calibre governors demanded for prisons

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PRISON governors publicly accepted yesterday that urgent action was needed to improve the quality of senior jail staff.

The acknowledgement came on the second day of the Prison Governors' Association annual conference as delegates called for the creation of a high-level working party to identify ways of enhancing the calibre of governor grades. Some delegates said standards began to deteriorate after graduates were barred from entering the prison service as trainee governors. Others said the rot started in 1987 when chief prison officers were upgraded to management.

Allen Davis, a governor attached to the prison department's London headquarters, issued a warning that more career civil servants would take over governors' posts unless improvements were made soon. Many governor grades needed to adjust their attitude, style, performance and perceptions. "Our concern is that the future senior leaders of this service must come from within our own unified ranks. The harsh reality is they are not there in sufficient quantity. This needs to be addressed urgently."

The demand for a shake-up in recruitment and promotion policies was also backed by former chief officers. Derek Julian, a governor of Holloway jail, London, said the abolition of the graduate direct-entry scheme had brought a decline in fresh thinking within the service. "A lot of principal officers who come up from the ranks will always remain prison officers," he said.

Delegates also broke new ground by agreeing a draft code of minimum jail standards that set detailed targets. The setting up of such a code was recommended by the Woolf enquiry into last year's prison riots but governors believe the Home Office remains opposed to the idea.

In another important move, the conference supported a motion calling on the Treasury to recognise that the prison estate permanently required 10 per cent more beds than prisoners. Governors say the provision of such a "cushion" in capacity is vital if jail overcrowding is to be ironed out completely.

The conference, held near Rugby in Warwickshire, has been marked by a mood of pessimism among governors about the prospects of Lord Justice Woolf's recommendations being implemented.

Kasparov record in danger

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

GARY Kasparov's record of never achieving less than a tie for first place in every important chess tournament he has contested is under threat from Vassily Ivanchuk, a 21-year-old Russian. With one round left in the Linares tournament in Spain, Ivanchuk has nine points out of 12, leading Kasparov by half a point.

Jon Speelman, Britain's only representative in what has been billed as the strongest chess tournament to be held, lies fourth with seven points, probably the best tournament performance of his life.

Scores with one round to go are: Ivanchuk, 9 pts; Kasparov, 8½; Alexander Beliavsky (USSR), 8.

Speelman: giving the performance of his life

Girls kick soccer rules into touch

By JOHN YOUNG AND JOHN GOODBODY

IT MAY be some time before female footballers will be allowed to play alongside men in the World Cup but a small step towards that goal has been taken by the Football Association, which has decreed that girls under the age of 11 will be allowed to play in mixed school football teams.

The news will clearly delight Gemma Carswell, aged nine, who earlier this year learned that she would no longer be able to captain Hook Athletic, in Hampshire, when it moves into a new league next season. It will come too late, however, for twins Aimee and Kate Nichols, aged 11, of Poole, Dorset, who were banned this season in their last year at primary school.

The relaxation of the rules will assuage the controversy over the ban on girls in inter-school competitions. David Bloomfield, a spokesman for the association, said: "We recognise that there have been problems in the past with schools reluctant to play against teams which include girls, but we think this move reflects the vast interest that has grown up among young girls wanting to play the game.

"Up to the age of 11 seems a natural time for girls to play alongside boys ... After the age of 11, the differences in physical strength become apparent, and we want to protect the girl players."

The change will be particularly welcome in rural areas, where many junior schools find that they have been unable to field teams unless they play mixed sides. Asked yesterday whether the age limit might be extended, Mr Bloomfield said that he thought it unlikely.

£150,000 for injury

A social worker who knocked his head on a low door frame at a children's home accepted £150,000 damages from his former employer, The Church of England Children's Society, in an out-of-court settlement yesterday.

The High Court at Nottingham had been told that Philip Gibbs, aged 42, of Hayling Island, Hampshire, was depressed and forgetful after suffering minor brain damage in the accident seven years ago and he had not worked since. The 6ft 2in social worker walked into the 6ft door frame St Monica's Home, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, after a child distracted him.

Firm fined

John P Raymond Engineering, of Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire, was fined £1,500 by Nottingham crown court yesterday over an accident in which a 16-year-old trainee lost a leg.

Monkey business

Two rare woolly monkeys born in Britain are being sent to Brazil from Looe, Cornwall, to teach orphaned babies of the same species the art of forest survival.

Seaman hurt

Stuart Bickthall, a 25-year-old seaman, was airlifted to hospital from a Scottish trawler 30 miles off Liverpool yesterday after being injured when a cable snapped and struck him on the head.

Inquest on boy

Nabil Iqbal, aged two, of Stratford, east London, died from inflammation of the heart after having chicken pox, an inquest at Walthamstow was told yesterday. A verdict of death from natural causes was recorded.

Jet ski curb

Jet skiers who endanger holiday-makers by racing near beaches will have their speed measured by a radar gun and be chased by a fisheries protection boat in a move planned by tourist chiefs on East Devon district council.

Pigs die in fire

More than 130 pigs were burnt alive yesterday in a barn fire at Gages Farm, Little Maplestead, Essex.

Former coalfield to fuel a green and pleasant land

Simon Tait reports on plans to turn a Yorkshire pit into an ecology centre two years after the last miner left

A DERELICT colliery near Doncaster is to be made the site of the world's first ecology museum as part of the "greening" of 240 acres of the South Yorkshire coalfield. The overall project, which will create an important tourist attraction, will cost up to £60 million.

Doncaster council is receiving a 100 per cent grant from the government's derelict land fund to buy Cadeby colliery, Conisbrough, from British Coal for £1 million so it can be turned into an attraction called the Earth Centre. There are plans for nature walks, an organic farm and garden centre, a 360-degree cinema screen, a children's playground, an art gallery, a conference centre, a green shopping area, a camp site and a square for cafés and street performances.

At the centre's heart will be the Museum of the Earth, 12 galleries examining population and health, transport, energy, climate, forests, food, atmosphere, oceans and climate.

Jonathan Smales, former administrative director of Greenpeace and the project's director, said: "This is a serious attempt to make ecology mainstream, sensual and exciting, tackling the biggest issues which have faced the human race. We want to banish the idea that environmental issues belong in some garden shed and instead present a world view which is not just museological natural history."

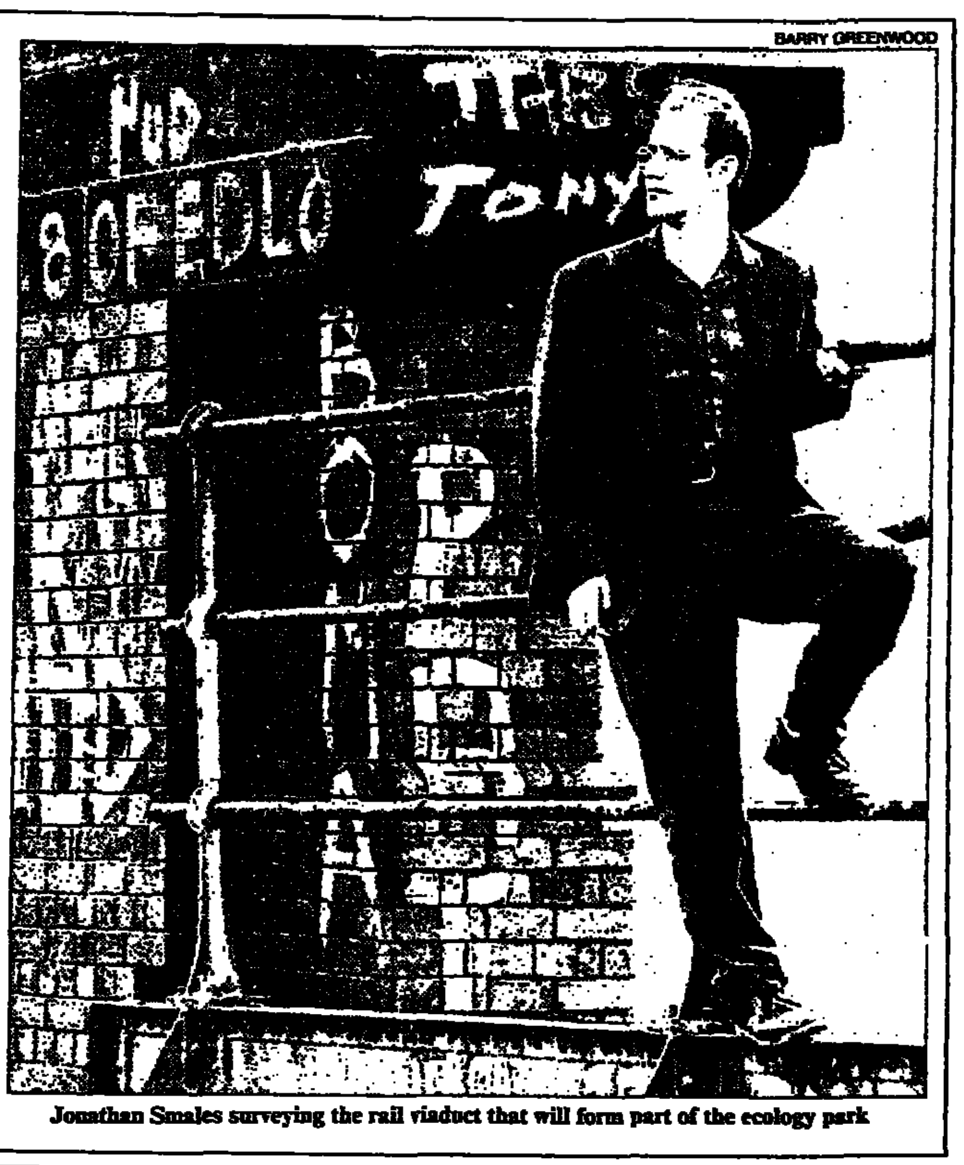
Miners left the site two years ago and a half-hearted attempt at landscaping to create a civic park has been abandoned. Two of Britain's most industrially polluted rivers, the Don and Dearne, join on the site's south-western borders and have already reclaimed a large part of the land. The outstanding man-made feature to survive is a Victorian railway viaduct.

The area surrounding Cadeby is already a wildlife centre. A nature reserve, managed by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, adjoins the site and there are three adjacent sites of special scientific interest.

Doncaster will hand over the colliery to Museum of the Earth Limited, a company limited by guarantee which has applied for charity status. Experts have been commissioned, including architects, scientists and lawyers, to put together a detailed plan that will be presented to the main funders: the government, the EC and industrial sponsors. If the plans are approved and if an initial £25 million can be pledged by next spring, the Earth Centre could open in 1995.

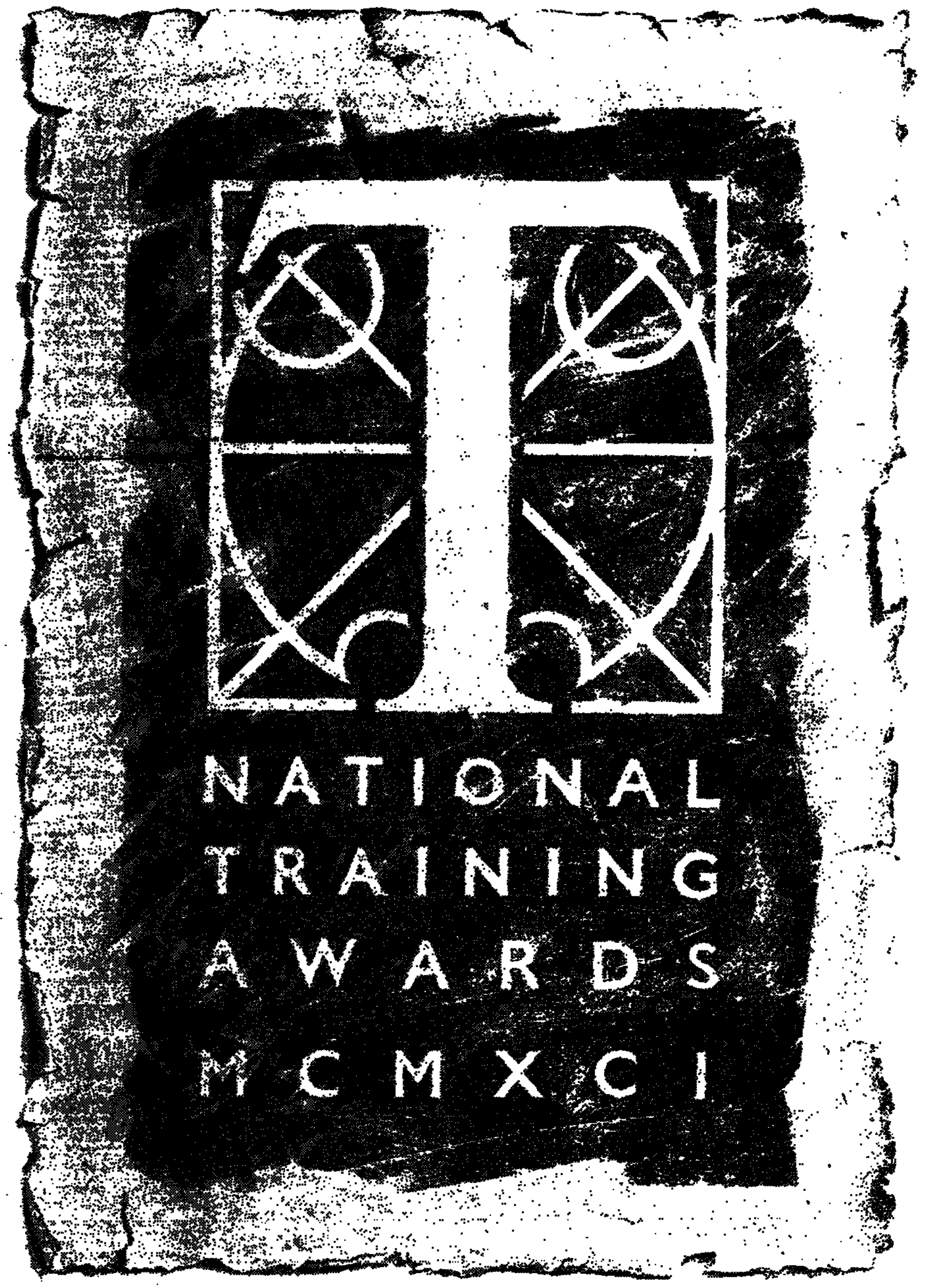
The area where the rivers have started nature's return is to become a peace garden, man's presence being marked by a sculpture. An underwater observatory in one of the rivers will show life returning to the industrial waterways.

Gordon Gallimore, leader of Doncaster council, said: "Coal mining was the chief industry here but it has gone and we are having to devise a strategy for replacing it. Tourism is the major part of it and the ecology project is vital to our strategy."



BARRY GREENWOOD

Jonathan Smales surveying the rail viaduct that will form part of the ecology park



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NATIONAL TRAINING AWARDS HAVE THEIR REWARDS

Lamont put Major in No 10 – now he must keep him there

Kinnock: his team ready for a jobless initiative

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

AS MANAGER of his leadership campaign, Norman Lamont put John Major into Downing Street as Margaret Thatcher's successor.

His political task in presenting his Budget on Tuesday is to keep him there after an election. And nobody entrusted with that task would want to start from where Mr Lamont is starting now, with interest rates still sky high, unemployment increasing and the balance of payments deficit proving stubborn.

With the latest possible date for an election July 7 next year, Mr Lamont is the first Chancellor since Sir Geoffrey Howe in the early Eighties to be introducing a Budget amid a full-blown recession, a recession that he and John Major first of all insisted would not happen and then underestimated when it did. He faces the further complication that he is the first Chancellor to introduce a Budget with Britain in the exchange-rate mechanism.

The measure of his task is that Mr Major's succession to Mrs Thatcher has seen a swing of 64 per cent in the popularity of the Tory leader. But the accompanying swing from Labour to Conservatives has been only a tenth of that, at 6 per cent. Good war or no, Mr Major's "halo effect" has not extended to the government's economic policies.

What makes things worse for Mr Lamont is that he cannot even be certain when the general election will be. The setting of a two-week Easter recess means that the government has ruled out May 2, local election day. But June remains a runner if the poll tax replacement pleases and if those May elections go better than expected. So does October. So does next spring.

So if he has anything to "give away" when does he time the benefits to come through? Should he concentrate on measures to reduce unemployment that just might work through in time for 1992 or does he put more money in the pockets of those who have a job in time for June?

There are other constraints too. Those green aspirations kindled by Mrs Thatcher will need to be satisfied. There will need to be discernible progress towards Mr Major's classless society. There will need above all to be a little fun. The fun perhaps is the easiest thing to provide. Mr Major's question time caginess about a national lottery suggests that the Chancellor has it in mind to introduce one, especially since the single market will see continental lottery tickets available in Britain.

Public opinion is in favour of increased taxes on alcohol and tobacco. But the crucial task for Mr Lamont is to maintain the drive to curb inflation, so little action can be expected there. He could, however, at little cost increase the incentives to motorists to use unleaded petrol.

But what to do on unemployment? Labour's rushing out yesterday of a temporary employment scheme suggests that Neil Kinnock's men may have wind of a government initiative in that field. Certainly, Mr Lamont will need to offer some hope.

Labour party research and Tory anecdotal evidence both suggest that the electorate that was ready to forgive the government for the rising unemployment of the early Eighties on the ground that Britain needed a short sharp shock is now less forgiving, arguing that after 11 years there can be only one party to blame. People believe that that period of misery was supposed to have been a one-off. Mr Lamont's main problem, however, is that Labour's able Treasury team are correct in insisting that this is a recession made in Downing Street. The interest rate squeeze that has occasioned the recession and the ERM entry are seen within the government as the solution to the recurring problem of inflation. That is where Mr Lamont's fetters are really chafing.

The government will not be able to launch upon an election with a hope of winning, whatever the opinion polls say, until economic optimism rises.

Nicholas Ridley, page 12

Pressure grows for poll change

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

POLL REFORM

LABOUR campaigners for electoral reform claimed yesterday to be the fastest-growing pressure group inside the party, with 1,300 members and the support of at least 40 MPs.

The working party on electoral reform, set up after last year's Labour party conference decided that it should look at Westminster elections, has since been empowered by the national executive to look at alternative voting systems for local government too, and the Scottish Labour party has voted to reject the first-past-the-post system for a Scottish parliament.

Jeff Rooker, the frontbencher, said yesterday that the Labour working party would produce an interim report setting out options for elections at all levels by the summer. At a Commons press conference to launch a pamphlet, *Arguments for Electoral Reform*, Robin Cook, the shadow health spokesman, said that the present unhealthy electoral arrangements, if left in place, threatened to bring down the democratic system.

At the last election, he said, three out of five voters had supported parties that were opposed to the poll tax and yet Britain had still seen the tax imposed. At Ribble Valley and in other elections people were encouraged to vote against the candidate they did not want to see elected rather than for the one they wanted.

Mr Cook said that electoral reform campaigners in the Labour party were not defeatists. Last year's conference had taken the surprising decision against the platform's advice to include Westminster elections in the study of voting systems after a year when Labour had led in the opinion polls by 10 per cent.

Marjorie Mowlam, a trade spokesman and a recent convert, said that people felt disfranchised because the results of an election were a foregone conclusion in all but 100-150 seats.

Labour party calls for further interest rate cut in Budget

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND NICHOLAS WOOD

BUDGET PLANS

THE Labour party's economic team called yesterday for a further reduction in interest rates of one percentage point in the Budget to be presented on Tuesday. John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, said that it could be done without risk to Britain's position in the exchange-rate mechanism.

Presenting Labour's alternative package of proposals, Mr Smith said that they would raise extra revenue by ending the 2 per cent incentive for personal pensions (£619 million), reducing the subsidy on company cars (£500 million), withdrawing additional mortgage tax relief for top-rate taxpayers (£470 million) and withdrawing the subsidy for private health insurance for the elderly (£50 million).

The money saved in those areas would be used, Mr Smith said, in a programme concentrated on manufacturing investment, training and child care.

Labour would restore child benefit to the level of April 1987, since when it has been frozen exept for an extra £1 for the oldest child, raising it to £9.55 a week for all children at a cost of £775 million. It would spend another £25 million on extending tax relief to all forms of child care provided by employers, such as partnership schemes with local authorities and private nurseries.

Labour would launch for a limited period an investment expansion scheme, an increased depreciation allowance targeted at boosting funds for investment in manufacturing industry. Margaret Beckett, a Treasury spokesman, said that the money could be found by closing tax loopholes for offshore trusts that cost the revenue more than £1,000 million a year. A growing-business scheme would be financed by switching revenues from the business expansion scheme, which Labour criticises as being almost entirely devoted now to property schemes.

A further £885 million would go on reversing cuts in the training programme, starting a temporary employment scheme and developing skills for the Nineties.

Beith: wants Bank outside political control

On green issues, Labour called for differential value-added tax rates for energy-efficient products, a graduated vehicle excise duty and steeper company car taxation.

The Liberal Democrats yesterday recommended a £1.9 billion boost for the economy in their Budget proposals. Education, training and public transport would be the main beneficiaries of proposed higher spending to be financed out of a combination of higher indirect taxes and increased borrowing. A packet of 20 cigarettes would go up by 20p and a pint of beer by 4p. Pressures on industry would be eased by more generous corporation tax allowances.

Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, also called for the Bank of England to be divorced from political control. He argued that independent control of monetary policy would make it easier to reduce interest rates.

Such a step would remove the "premium" on interest rates imposed by the markets to compensate for the government's tendency to vary the cost of borrowing for "short-term political considerations". Mr Beith said the pound should be moved into the narrow band of the ERM to underpin anti-inflationary policy by making clear that devaluation was not an option.

Overall, the Liberal Democrats want a £5 billion spending boost. That would be made up of £500 million extra on education, £900 million on training, £500 million on childcare and nursery schooling, £1.05 billion on public transport, mainly concentrated on higher investment by the railways, £700 million on full poll tax rebates for the poor, £500 million on tax breaks for industry, £600 million on more generous business rate transitional relief, and £250 million on environmental measures.

Smith: plan will not imperil Britain's ERM position

More air links needed

WALES is losing investment and new jobs through the lack of flights connecting Cardiff airport with other European capitals, America and the Far East, the Commons Welsh affairs committee said yesterday (Sheila Gunn writes).

The MPs also supported complaints from the Confederation of British Industry in Wales at the lack of a rail link and better roads between the city centre and the airport at Rhoose, ten miles away. The airport handles about 700,000 passengers a year through charter holiday traffic and its limited scheduled services.

Graham Greaves, the airport's managing director, told the committee that lack of scheduled flights meant that Wales was losing opportunities, losing benefits and losing companies. A new road from Cardiff to the airport was also needed.

House of Commons Welsh affairs committee first report: *Cardiff-Wales Airport* (Stationery Office; £9.60)

Iraq 'cannot delay Middle East pact'

By JOHN WINDER

THE search for a Middle East settlement, justice for the Palestinians and security for the state of Irael need not wait on events in Iraq, **Douglas Hurd**, foreign secretary, said during Commons questions yesterday.

He was replying to **Patrick Cormack** (South Staffordshire, C), who had said that there could be no question of a comprehensive Middle East peace conference on the future of the Palestinians while Saddam Hussein remained in power in Iraq. It was essential that Iraq should be represented, but "that evil man" could not be at the conference.

During earlier exchanges, Mr Hurd accepted that the Palestinians must be part of any Arab-Israeli settlement, but said that the present PLO leadership had substantially weakened its authority by its support for the aggression of Saddam.

Sir David Steel, Liberal Democrat spokesman on foreign affairs, said that nobody should be able to dictate who represented the Palestinians. They should choose their own representatives.

Mr Hurd agreed and added that the Palestinians must be represented, otherwise there would be no point in a conference. All involved, including Israel, had to attend. That was why there had to be much preparation, which was in hand.

George Galloway (Glasgow, Hillhead, Lab) said that Mr Hurd could not seriously suggest that the PLO leadership had been weakened. He was caricaturing the Palestinian leadership.

Peers to rebel on absent parents

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN

REBELLIONS by peers of all parties today could severely damage the government's scheme for forcing absent parents to pay maintenance.

The peers, supported by family and children's charities, complain that the bill setting up a child support agency to track down reluctant maintenance payers will do nothing to eliminate child poverty.

The agency scheme, based on an Australian system, was announced by the former prime minister Margaret Thatcher last year. Tony Newton, the social security secretary, predicts annual savings in benefits of about £300 million as single parents receive better maintenance payments.

The key revolts today are expected to centre on amendments to allow many parents to pursue maintenance payments through the courts instead of the proposed agency and to oppose the government's plan to dock benefits from single parents who refuse to disclose the name of the child's father.

Mr Newton has given assurances that the agency will preserve the confidentiality of the caring parent if there is a risk of violence. But he is pressing ahead with proposals for reducing the caring parent's benefits if she or he refuses to disclose the name to officials.

Opencast mining criticised

By ROGER WOOD

RESTRICTIONS by a future Labour government to curb the spread of opencast mining were promised yesterday by Frank Dobson, shadow energy secretary, who said that any community with coal under ground was threatened.

Opencast mining was harmful to local communities and the environment, but the government had allowed it to get out of hand, Mr Dobson said. He accused operators of "roaming the countryside prospecting for opencasting in greenfield sites where no one has worked coal for decades". Labour's policy stops short of banning new opencast working but says that it will be allowed only where it benefits local communities.

Opencast mining was studied by the Flowers commission set up by the Labour government in 1979. The commission reported in 1981 that levels of opencasting should be reduced. Since 1979, however, output from opencast mines had risen from nearly 13 million tonnes a year to 18.7 million tonnes in 1989, Mr Dobson said.

Hoaxers to face seven years

Bomb hoaxers will face up to seven years in prison under proposals announced yesterday by Kenneth Baker, the home secretary. He said in a Commons written reply that amendments would be tabled to the criminal justice bill, now before the Lords, to raise the maximum sentence from five years to seven on conviction on indictment, and from three months to six on conviction in a magistrats' court.

He said that the change indicated the seriousness with which the offence was viewed.

Arms sales 'indecent'

Gerald Kaufman, shadow foreign secretary, attacked as indecent moves by the West to sell arms to Middle East countries after the end of the Gulf war. It created the potential for further conflict in the region, he said.

Douglas Hurd, foreign secretary, said that there was a need for arms suppliers to discuss reasonable criteria for sales so as to prevent a situation where Saddam Hussein could build up an army of tanks nearly twice as large as the British and French force combined.

Choice of Hain attacked

Labour's choice of Peter Hain (above) to fight the forthcoming Neath by-election came under sharp attack at question time. John Carlisle, Tory MP for Luton North, said that electors should remember that he used to spread tin tacks on rugby pitches as part of his anti-apartheid campaign.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Northern Ireland; prime minister. Motion for Easter recess and consolidated fund bill when a variety of topics will be raised.
Lords (3.): Child support bill, committee, first day.

Stricter rules for MPs

TIGHTER rules should be set for MPs on Commons select committees to prevent abuse from conflicts of interest between their parliamentary work and outside financial interests, the Commons committee on members' interests said yesterday (Sheila Gunn writes).

The committee revived the suggestion that committee members and chairmen should receive an allowance as compensation. Although the procedure committee opposes the idea, its sister committee, chaired by Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, wants a further study.

The committee on members' interests recommended: a committee MP with a pecuniary interest should withdraw from a related enquiry; MPs should send the clerk details of all outside interests when appointed to a select committee; a ban on client relationships and business between a select committee and the department it shadows; and change of Commons rules to bar committee chairmen from holding a financial interest that conflicts with their committee or parliamentary work.

House of Commons Select Committee on Members' Interests: *First Report* (Stationery Office; £7.95).

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Peers to rebel on absent parents

Hoaxer to face seven years

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INTERCITY

PALESTINIANS

Arafat envoy gives hint of new PLO peace initiative

By MICHAEL KNIPE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

AMID speculation that the Palestine Liberation Organisation is about to unveil a new peace initiative, a new round of talks will take place in London today between senior officials of the PLO and the Foreign Office.

The meeting will be between Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader, and David Gore Booth, a Foreign Office assistant under-secretary for Middle East affairs.

Yesterday Mr Abu Sharif abruptly cancelled a press conference he was due to hold in London today, at which he was expected to outline "new ideas" for solving the Palestinians' dispute with Israel. Earlier he had given a series of interviews in which he appeared to be presenting new PLO positions, but afterwards he accused his interviewers of distorting his views.

Senior PLO officials at the organisation's headquarters in Tunis said Mr Abu Sharif had been speaking out of turn. There was speculation, however, that his statements were "trial balloons" floated on behalf of Mr Arafat and that his retraction of them reflected a power struggle in the *PLO* leadership.

Martin Benedict of *Sky News* said that after an on-camera interview dealing with the visit of James Baker, the American Secretary of State, to the Middle East, Mr Abu Sharif had told him that the PLO was preparing to launch a package of concessions aimed at enticing Israel to the negotiating table. Mr Benedict said Mr Abu Sharif had made four key points:

☐ The PLO would drop its demand to be treated as equal partners in any talks with Israel and would be prepared to nominate as its representatives Palestinians who were not members of the PLO.

☐ The organisation would also be prepared to accept something less than the complete West Bank and Gaza strip for a Palestinian state and would compromise with Israel over their common borders.

☐ It would agree to the territory being demilitarised with the United Nations taking responsibility for security.

☐ It would not automatically be headed by Mr Arafat and the Palestinians would hold democratic elections to decide on their government.

Mr Abu Sharif, in a later interview on the BBC World Service, said Palestine representatives should negotiate the borders of a Palestinian state, which the PLO believed should include a corridor through Israel between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

"We will be ready to discuss demilitarisation of the region as a whole, or any kind of guarantees that will ensure the safety and security not only of the Palestinian state but also of the Israeli state," he said. East Jerusalem could be the capital of the state of Palestine. Israel says it will not negotiate any division of Jerusalem. Israel annexed predominantly Arab east Jerusalem after capturing it in the 1967 Middle East war.

In a statement issued by the PLO, Mr Abu Sharif said the organisation's general peace initiative did not exclude the possibility that it would negotiate details that "might include a short transitional stage under UN auspices and the necessity to have a corridor between Gaza and the West Bank."

Mr Abu Sharif's meeting with Mr Gore Booth will be one of a series at official level between the PLO and the Foreign Office. Ministerial level contacts have been curtailed following the PLO's decision to support Iraq in its invasion of Kuwait.

Mr Abu Sharif told Jordan radio that the statements attributed to him by *Sky News* were "absolutely not true". He reiterated the PLO's support for the United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which include a land-for-peace agreement as the basis for settling the Arab-Israeli dispute.

"What we said is that we expect the implementation of UN resolutions 242 and 338 fully and that remains a main condition from the Palestinian people," said Mr Abu Sharif.

Resolution 242 calls for Israel to withdraw from the lands it captured from Jordan, Egypt and Syria during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. It also says Israel has the right to live within secure borders and at peace with its Arab neighbours. Resolution 338 calls for the implementation of 242.

Mr Abu Sharif said Palestinian leaders who met James Baker, the American Secretary of State, in Jerusalem had made clear "the PLO's continued representation of the Palestinian people and that there will not be alternative leadership."

● **STRASBOURG:** Jacques Poos, acting president of the European Community, has called on Israelis and Palestinians to "go to the negotiating table", after detecting a new flexibility on both sides of the dispute over Palestine during a visit to the Middle East last week (Peter Guilford writes).

Mr Poos based his new-found optimism on his talks with a group of Palestinian representatives from the occupied territories led by Faisal Husseini. He believed that the Palestinians were stepping in the right direction and felt they could be weakening their demands on Israel in order to facilitate an agreement.

JORDAN

Husain attempts to mend fences

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

KING Husain of Jordan has written to President Bush in an apparent attempt to mend relations that had badly deteriorated during the Gulf war, a White House official confirmed yesterday.

The Washington Post, which first disclosed the correspondence, quoted administration sources as saying that the letter was "very brief and personal" and a further indication that Jordan was "interested in getting out of the corner it painted itself into" through its outspoken support for Iraq. It followed a conciliatory speech by the Jordanian monarch in the aftermath of the Iraqi rout.

Washington's position is that it wants to rebuild relations with Jordan, but the process of rehabilitation will necessarily take time. It is understood that Mr Bush has yet to reply to the two-week-old letter from the monarch he used to consider a close friend. James Baker pointedly omitted Amman during his current Middle East tour and American aid to Jordan has been put under review.

The Washington Times, quoting Kuwaiti government officials, yesterday reported that the United States and Kuwait had agreed to open a joint British-American air base on the island of Bubiyan, though neither the Pentagon nor State Department could or would confirm this.

The island is strategically placed in the northern tip of the Gulf, near Iraq's limited port facilities. The report said it would be one of three air bases established in the region as part of a new security arrangement. The other two would be in Oman and either Bahrain or Qatar. If true, the base would represent a significant change in the Gulf states' pre-war policy of playing down military links with the US and would upset Iran.

The administration has meanwhile been forced by congressional pressure to review the $15 billion (£8 billion) package of sophisticated weaponry it had planned to sell to Saudi Arabia once the war was over, and nothing is now likely to happen until a new policy on conventional arms sales to the Middle East has been hammered out.

Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, told reporters the administration would have to "go back and review the bidding to see what is required" to ensure Saudi Arabia's long-term security.

ABBEY NATIONAL INTEREST RATES

Change of Interest Rates

INVESTMENTS

With effect from 15th March 1991 the rates of interest listed below will apply to savings and investment accounts both new and existing.

		Net Rate for Interest Paid before 6th April 1991 %	Gross Rate for Interest Paid on or after 6th April 1991 %	Net Equivalent for Interest Paid on or after 6th April 1991 %
STERLING ASSET				
(Annual Interest)	£25,000 plus	10.05	12.90	9.68
	£10,000 up to £24,999	9.80	12.60	9.45
	£1000 up to £9,999	9.35	12.00	9.00
(Monthly Interest)	£25,000 plus	9.61	12.19	9.14
	£10,000 up to £24,999	9.39	11.93	8.95
	£1000 up to £9,999	8.97	11.39	8.54
	Annual Bonus	0.25	0.34	0.25
INSTANT SAVER				
(Annual Interest)	£25,000 plus	9.60	12.80	9.60
	£10,000 up to £24,999	9.41	12.55	9.41
	£5000 up to £9,999	8.96	11.95	8.96
	£2,500 up to £4,999	8.74	11.65	8.74
	£500 up to £2,499	8.63	11.50	8.63
	£1 up to £499	6.23	8.30	6.23
CURRENT ACCOUNT				
(Monthly Interest)		4.50	5.75	4.31
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNT				
(Annual Interest)	£25,000 plus	8.97	11.50	8.63
	£10,000 up to £24,999	8.46	10.85	8.14
	£2,500 up to £9,999	7.84	10.05	7.54
	£1000 up to £2,499	7.41	9.50	7.13
(Monthly Interest)	£25,000 plus	8.62	10.93	8.20
	£10,000 up to £24,999	8.15	10.35	7.76
	£2,500 up to £9,999	7.57	9.61	7.21
	£1000 up to £2,499	7.17	9.11	6.83

RETIREMENT INVESTMENT ACCOUNT		Gross Rate PA %
(Personal Pension Plan)	£20,000 plus	13.85*
	£15,000 up to £19,999	13.40*
	£10,000 up to £14,999	13.00*
	£5000 up to £9,999	12.60*
	£2000 up to £4,999	12.00*
	Up to £1,999	11.00*

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Grim task: workmen digging fresh graves in Kuwait City's Raqqa cemetery after the dicovery of more bodies of people killed during Iraq's occupation

KUWAIT

Cemetery betrays the brutality of invasion

From JAMIE DETTMER IN KUWAIT CITY

DAY turned into night at the cemetery as black plumes of smoke from oilfield fires billowed across the graveyard, leaving oily deposits on the yellow overalls of the seven grave-diggers. With the sun obscured, the sight of row upon row of individual and mass graves was somehow more chilling.

In the past few months, the cemetery at Riqqa, 16 miles south of Kuwait City has become the final resting place of hundreds of Kuwaits tortured and butchered by the Iraqis during the occupation of the emirate. More than 50 handicapped children are buried at Riqqa in one 100ft-long trench grave, according to the grave-diggers. Where the children came from and why they died remains a mystery.

In one corner, some distance from the graves of Kuwaitis, lies a long trench containing the remains of 30 to 40 Iraqi soldiers. It, like all the graves in the cemetery, is thinly covered with sand.

The bodies are still coming. According to the grave-diggers, there are ten on average every day, the victims of continuing violence: Iraqi soldiers, Kuwaitis and Palestinians. Some may have died in the last hours of the war, their bodies only recently discovered; others have been freshly killed.

Two grave-diggers said that about half of the bodies which have been delivered in the past few days are Palestinians. "Their hands are tied behind their backs," said one. "Cigarette burns on them. Some legs broken." He said that many of the bodies had gunshot wounds to the chest. His testimony was compelling, primarily because he is not a Palestinian, but a Kuwaiti.

He said the bodies were delivered to the cemetery by ambulances from hospitals where they had been taken after being found dumped on the streets of Kuwait City.

Yesterday Michael Weston, the British ambassador to Kuwait, said he had little doubt that victimisation of Palestinians was being carried out *ad hoc* and without the blessing of the Kuwait government. "The crown prince has told us that the government intends to treat the Palestinians within the law." He said the authorities were aware of the dangers of civil disturbance in Kuwait and wanted to do as much as they could to lessen hostilities. "With so many weapons around, it could be nasty," Mr Weston said.

There is little time for ceremony at Rigga cemetery: the bodies are buried as they arrive, without no ritual washing. If bodies come in a group, they are deposited in mass graves.

The seven men who work here are not grave-diggers by profession. One, Saad al-Ganim, aged 40, only started in August soon after the Iraqi invasion. He had been an assistant engineer with the ministry of public works.

Mr al-Ganim points to the first three rows of one large patch of the cemetery. "Those were dug before the Iraqis came," he said. He then waves his hand to cover the bulk of the remaining rows, about 25, and indicated that those were dug during the occupation. The last four rows are the new ones. Each row contains about 30 bodies.

DIPLOMACY

Baker's peace tour wins friends

By PAUL ADAMS
IN JERUSALEM
AND OUR
FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Assad of Syria and James Baker, the American Secretary of State, discussed postwar regional security, terrorism, hostages in Lebanon and economic development, here yesterday, American and Syrian sources said.

Mr Baker, who is on a ten-day tour of the Middle East also visited the old city of Damascus and attended a two-hour working lunch with his Syrian counterpart Farouk al-Sharaa. The sources gave no further details on the subjects of discussion.

Mr Baker is to meet Faris Buwayz, the Lebanese foreign minister, this morning to discuss Lebanon's role in the new security order after the end of the war with Iraq. He is also to discuss the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 425, which calls for an immediate and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from territories it occupies in southern Lebanon, Beirut sources said. Mr Baker goes to Moscow today.

His first trip to Israel was conducted amid smiles and expressions of satisfaction from Israelis and Palestinians. But few observers have any illusions that Washington's involvement in the region is a passing enthusiasm.

"The kid gloves have still not been taken off," wrote David Kimche, a former director-general of the foreign ministry, in yesterday's *Maariv* newspaper. "Until now, there have only been feelers. The serious work, minus the kid gloves, will begin in the next round."

The next round may not be too long in coming. Washington seems anxious to capitalise on the sense of mutability engendered by the Gulf war. Some Israelis speculate that the purpose of Mr Baker's trip to Moscow will be to encourage the Soviet Union to restore relations with Israel, paving the way for superpower co-operation on convening a regional peace conference.

Palestinians, too, seem eager to encourage momentum. Despite the confusion surrounding Bassam Abu Sharif's comments to the media, Palestinians in Jerusalem are expecting to see fresh proposals from Tunis.

"We are not in need of a new leader," Faisal Husseini, a leading Palestinian nationalist, said yesterday. "We need a new initiative. Mr Arafat has the ability to provide that initiative." Mr Husseini described Mr Abu Sharif's statements as an experiment that didn't work. "Some balloons go up. Some explode," he said. Mr Husseini said Israel had to withdraw from the occupied territories before the two sides could talk about final arrangements.

"Every centimetre that was occupied in 1967 must be for the Palestinians," he said.

Baker: banking on Soviet relations with Israel

Britain calls for removal of Iraqi missiles

New York — Britain is insisting at the United Nations that a final end to hostilities in the Gulf be conditional on Iraq destroying its weapons of mass destruction (James Bone writes).

A provision seeking the elimination of Iraq's ballistic missiles and chemical and biological weapons is one of several points Britain is trying to insert in the next security council resolution, which is expected before Easter. The resolution will probably establish a two-stage process, declaring a "definitive end to hostilities" after Iraq complies with certain conditions.

Britain and the United States have begun preliminary drafting, and are expected to begin consultations with the other three permanent members of the security council — China, France and the Soviet Union — next week. The five powers' draft will then go to the full council for a vote.

John Major made the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction a goal of British policy soon after allied forces declared a ceasefire. He told the House of Commons: "Through the United Nations we shall seek a commitment from Iraq to destroy under international supervision all its ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction and not to acquire such weapons in future."

Britain tried and failed to include such a demand in the first security council resolution after the ceasefire, resolution 686. America opposed the provision because the allies were trying to persuade Iraqi commanders to attend a battlefield meeting.

Ramadan rules

Nicosia — Saudi Arabia may deport non-Muslims who flout the rules of Ramadan, the Islamic fasting month which begins in mid-March. But the government did not mention Western troops still in the country. It said non-Muslims should not eat or smoke in public during dawn to dusk fasting hours. *(Reuter)*

Greek outrage

Athens — The Greek government described Tuesday's bomb attack in which an American air force sergeant was killed as "cowardly murder" and pledged to track down the killers. Ronald Stewart, aged 35, died two hours after the bomb went off as he was entering his house in the Athens suburb of Glyfada.

Sharon returns

Jerusalem — Ariel Sharon, the Israeli housing minister, has agreed to resume chairmanship of a cabinet committee that oversees resettlement of Soviet immigrants after resigning this week over aid cuts. His return comes after they were reinstated, and an appeal from Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister. *(AP)*

Asylum sought

Madrid — Arshad Tawfiq Ismail, Iraq's ambassador in Madrid, turned over weapons in his embassy to police before seeking diplomatic asylum, according to the newspaper, *ABC*. The diplomat also burned papers. He is reportedly under police protection. *(AP)*

Exodus halted

Jerusalem — Ethiopia has stopped its Jews from emigrating to Israel in an attempt to pressure Tel Aviv into providing military aid to help fight its worsening civil war, according to a spokesman for Israel's Ethiopian Jews. Some Ethiopians in Israel have waited since 1984 for families to join them. *(Reuter)*

GENEVA CONVENTION

Plan to save environment

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A PROPOSAL has been launched to draw up a fifth Geneva convention outlawing the destruction of the environment as a weapon of war.

A conference to be held in London in June will draw up legal instruments to add the protection of the environment to the existing Geneva protocols protecting human victims of armed conflict. The organisers hope ultimately to get the agreement of all five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, to ensure that no belligerent can cause an enviromental catastrophe on the scale of the burning of Kuwaiti oil wells by President Saddam Hussein.

The proposal for a new convention has been put forward by Glen Plant, a lecturer at the London School of Economics, and is supported by the new Institute for Environmental Law and Policy, the University of London Centre for Defence Studies and Greenpeace International. The organisers hope that representatives from foreign and defence ministries of the leading powers, academics, experts from international organisations and international lawyers will attend.

Dr Plant said the Gulf conflict had shown how natural resources could be used as weapons or instruments of revenge in war, with lasting consequences. He said other recent conflicts had seen the mass destruction by defoliation, burning and cratering of forests and agricultural land, the breaching of large dams and extensive bombing of industrial targets. All often resulted in environmental damage.

Existing Geneva conventions could be stretched to cover the environment, but not adequately. They set the threshold at which destruction was prohibited too high; they did not tie prohibitions to the protection of the environment; they permitted broad exceptions; and they were not adhered to by a significant number of states, including the big military powers.

The conference hopes to draw up a draft which one country will adopt as a national proposal to be put before the world community. The protocol could then be presented to the UN for ratification by as many countries as possible.

BRITISH FORCES

Gallant actions recalled

From MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, IN KUWAIT CITY

THE incident in which nine British soldiers were killed by an American A10 anti-tank aircraft during the Gulf ground offensive was also the scene of extraordinary bravery, it has emerged.

As the first of two Warrior infantry fighting vehicles was hit by Maverick precision-guided missiles, the crew of the other Warrior began climbing out to help their colleagues. The gunner of the second Warrior, Fuselier Simon Bakkor, aged 20, leapt from his vehicle and ran across to try to save his friend, who was the gunner in the burning vehicle.

Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Larpent, commander of the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, said: "He was trying to open the hatch to get his mate out. But he was hit by shrapnel when there was a secondary explosion. He was wounded in the legs." He added: "There were some gallant actions which I hope will be recognised."

Apart from the nine dead, 11 were wounded during the incident. Both Warriors were gutted. "It was a really big shock," Colonel Larpent said. "Immediately after the incident we had another operation to plan, which kept us all going. But 16 hours later we started to feel the effects of losing those nine soldiers. We had a short, sharp service in the field."

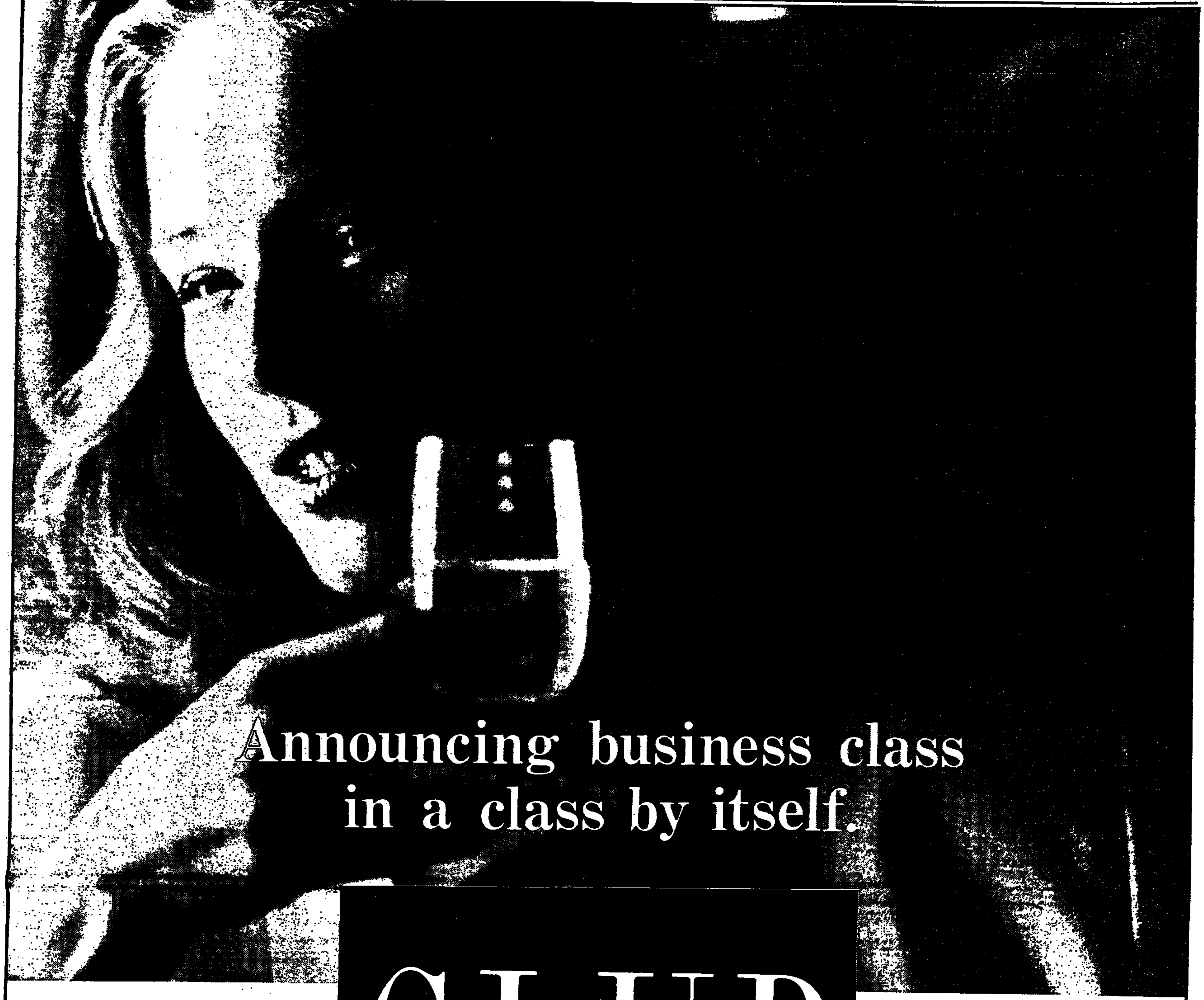
The two A10s involved should never have been in the area. They should have been flying further east. Both the Warriors had special red lights pointing towards the sky which was supposed to prevent "blue on blue" friendly fire. Colonel Larpent added: "There were lots of soldiers in the back of Warriors who saw less of the war than their mothers did at home."

One of the reasons for this was the success of the allied air campaign in destroying the Iraqi soldiers' willingness and ability to fight. The A10s played one of the most significant roles in the air war.

● **RIYADH:** A Red Cross aircraft carrying the remains of 14 allied soldiers killed in the Gulf war arrived in Saudi Arabia from Baghdad yesterday, the American military command announced. They were taken to an American mortuary at the Dhahran air base.

هكذا من الأصل

Baker's peace tour wins friends



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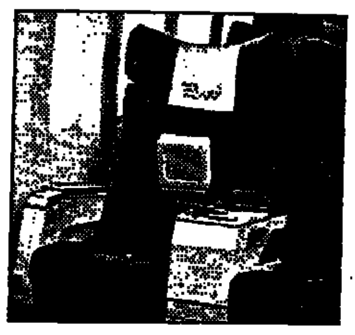

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Kazakhstan leader quietly embarks on road to free market

Nursultan Nazarbayev's radical blueprint for economic privatisation has put Kazakhstan on the political map, Mary Dejevsky reports from Alma Ata

THE leader of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, has presented local Communist party and government officials with a blueprint for privatising the republic's economy, more radical and more comprehensive than anything so far ventured by any Soviet republic. He has been accused of taking Kazakhstan on the direct route to capitalism.

According to his own account, he stood his ground in the way that only a leader as confident in his power as Mr Nazarbayev could. "I said, 'to hell with where we are going, capitalism or wherever, *let's just improve* things, let's go forward'."

With the memory of his recent skirmish still fresh, he thumped on the desk and said: "I'll tell you, our workers are three times more exploited than workers under capitalism," and he elaborated on his vision of a Kazakhstan dotted with shops and hairdressers and small businesses. Even the idea of reviving the foreign mining concessions that Kazakhstan had before the 1917 revolution found favour.

Mr Nazarbayev's power and confidence are sufficient for him not to worry what others think. As well as being president of Kazahstan he is also first secretary of its Communist party, but he does not let this cramp his style. In Kazakhstan, he said, "we all understand that the Communist party is a real political force. Perhaps because of our oriental ways, there will be no swift turn."

He went on: "If you know how to use the party then you can work through it. It strengthens you and you strengthen it." None the less, he is reducing the role of the party and removing it from economic management, quite deliberately.

Mr Nazarbayev is a regional politician widely suspected of harbouring national ambitions. A liberal Moscow newspaper recently described him as "moving around the Kremlin with the unhurried gait of a ruler ... restrained and collected".

He also possesses the combination of political shrewdness, energy and cunning that characterised President Gorbachev in the early years of perestroika. Mr Nazarbayev, at 51, is nine years younger than the Soviet president, and it may not have been only out of personal respect that he digressed from a question in a recent television interview to congratulate Mr Gorbachev on his 60th birthday.

So far, the Kazakhstan leader has remained loyal to his republic. Many say it would be tragic if he were to leave for a job at the centre. But Mr Nazarbayev has been tempted, and may be again. Over the past two years he has been nominated as chairman of the Soviet parliament, deputy chairman of parliament and deputy general secretary of the Soviet Communist party; on each occasion he withdrew.

In his confident manner, enthusiasm for radical economic policies and openness to new ideas, Mr Nazarbayev is often seen as an oriental Boris Yeltsin, but he is a more tactical and accomplished politician. He prefers the quiet approach.

Of his privatisation plans, he says he wants to set up a few "model private enterprises" so that people can see how they work and want to emulate them. "But we must do it quietly, without any fuss."

He used the same strategy to great effect last year in putting Kazakhstan on the national map. The republic was one of the first, after the centre, to establish a state presidency, and one of the first to declare its sovereignty. In both cases, Mr Nazarbayev said, the centre at first took no notice. Of the presidency, he said, they thought it was just another example of our oriental customs and we would carry on as before. But we did not.

"When we declared sovereignty we insisted that it should be taken at its word and the centre started to put pressure on us. I then joined a bloc with the big republics, where I play a certain role." Kazakhstan he says with muted pride, now has a leader who has to be reckoned with.

His co-operation with the "big republics" brought him into league with the Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, but also into a game which posed and still poses far more of a threat to the central Soviet leadership and to President Gorbachev than the Kazakhstan leader wants to admit.

Yesterday he lifted only part of the curtain which obscures the mysterious creation of a so-called "alternative centre", or the "big four", the plan for a political and economic alliance between Kazakhstan, Russia, the Ukraine and Belorussia.The "big four" had been his idea, he said.

● **KIEV:** In a leaked document, the Ukraine Communist party has attacked its own activists for "smugness and inertia" accusing them of disregarding the threat posed by pro-independence groups in the referendum (Robert Seely writes).

The republic's 52 million population is a key area for the referendum. If they choose to vote "no" to the renewed union, the result could seal the fate of the Soviet Union.

Triumphant Serbs seek downfall of government

FROM ROGER BOYES AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

THE Serbian opposition yesterday claimed another victory in its anti-communist campaign by forcing the resignation of the interior minister, Radmilo Bogdanovic. But the opposition leader, Vuk Draskovic, told a 10,000-strong crowd of cheering Serbs in the Yugoslav capital that the opposition would now press for the resignation of the whole government, and demanded new elections.

Mr Bogdanovic was in command of the police forces when they charged and fired on student demonstrators in Belgrade on Saturday. The concession — one of the key demands of the protesters — enthused the thousands of young Serbs but left them dissatisfied.

"Arrest Slobo!" they chanted, referring to Slobodan Milosevic, the beleaguered Serbian president, who has now given ground, under pressure, on several of the opposition demands. The television management has been sacked — albeit to be replaced by another unpopular director — Mr Draskovic was freed from prison, and a parliamentary commission will investigate the shootings.

Mr Milosevic also met parliamentarians, including Dragoljub Micunovic, a deputy from the opposition Democratic party, in an effort to ease the crisis which he created in the first place by sending tanks against unarmed demonstrators.

Yugoslavia appears to have edged back from the immediate threat of martial law. Although the collective parliament of Yugoslavia will resume discussing the subject today, it is obvious that there is a strong majority against authorising the state of emergency demanded by the army.

Dr Stipe Mesic, who represented Croatia at Tuesday night's session, said yesterday: "The future of the country cannot be resolved in this way." The original proposals of the leadership have been rejected and the republics — minus Slovenia which is boycotting the session — will today "concentrate on other ways of resolving the crisis".

The Serbian opposition is maintaining its pressure on the communist leadership but is also refraining from challenging Mr Milosevic by name. The opposition organiser, Bogoljub Pejcic, said yesterday: "We do not want to overthrow the regime or the constitutional order.

However, Mr Draskovic made clear yesterday what he thought of Mr Milosevic's leadership: "This despotic, tyrannic, one-sided, one-legged, one-eyed regime cannot have any friend left in the world." The opposition, he said, had opened up Serbia to Europe and the world. The immediate object of the opposition — voiced strongly in the demonstration — is for the release of more than 300 jailed protesters.

Mr Pejcic said that many were being tortured or kept in solitary confinement. Most had been sentenced to prison and were being forced to work. During the demonstration yesterday, opposition speakers said that 150 of the prisoners were on hunger strike and that the regime was deliberately playing down the number of those injured in Saturday's violence.

The apparent confessions of Mr Milosevic may be a matter of tactics. The use of the federal army in a Serbian confrontation was a blunder. The Serbian communist party is split and there may well be disagreements in the army since they too risk much by the imposition of martial law.

Draskovic: attacking a "despotic regime"

Out of breath: a teenager wearing a mask during a shopping trip in Bratislava, the Slovak capital. Severe air pollution, mainly caused by the local chemical industry, is a constant threat to the health of the local people

Economic woes add to Kremlin plebiscite fears

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE industrial unrest in the Soviet Union's coal mines, reported last night to have forced the closure of five Ukranian steel mills, is compounding an already unprecedented drop in economic output. It is matching or exceeding the gloomiest warnings of forecasters.

A senior Communist party official acknowledged yesterday that economic recession was providing an unfavourable climate for next Sunday's referendum, in which voters will decide the fate of President Gorbachev's plans for a renewed Soviet federation.

Yuri Prokofyev, the Moscow city party boss and a hardline supporter of the president, struck a defensive note which suggested that the leadership may already be anticipating a poor result, despite a propaganda barrage for a "yes" vote.

"The referendum is being held at the worst possible time, with the influence of the *leadership falling and economic decline in the background*," he told reporters, adding that the ballot was, none the less, necessary to preserve the union and avert a complete economic collapse.

The extent to which output was declining even before this month's miners' strike is revealed by the latest, unpublished estimates of output in key sectors during January and February.

In the Soviet Union as a whole, production of coal was down by 7 per cent, that of oil by 9 per cent, and that of ferrous metals by 6 per cent, according to figures being used by Gosplan, the state planning agency. Published data for the Russian Federation, which provides the lion's share of output in virtually all sectors, confirm these trends and also indicate a 9 per cent fall in car production, a 10 per cent drop in tractor output and 14 per cent in timber production.

Gosplan officials said current trends were in line with forecasts they drew up six months ago of a double-figure drop in national income during 1991. One prediction foresaw an 11.6 per cent drop in the GNP. These estimates were later revised considerably, apparently because of pressure from Nikolai Ryzhkov, the outgoing prime minister. Thus by late November, Gosplan's forecasts for 1991 projected a 1 per cent fall in GNP, and in industrial output of only 1.5 per cent.

Unpublished figures are already showing a decline of 4.7 per cent in the nominal value of industrial output over the year to last month. Officials say the real figure may be nearer 7 per cent if proper account is taken of inflation.

Moreover, neither the speed at which oil production has declined, nor the effects of the current coal strike were anticipated.

In the past two weeks, some 350,000 tonnes of coal have been lost as a result of industrial unrest in the Donbass, in the Ukraine, which produces nearly a quarter of the total Soviet production. In the west Siberian Kuzbass region, where the spectacular coal strike of 1989 began, up to a third of miners have taken part in industrial action over the past few weeks as pits take turns to shut.

The extent of concern over the strike in high places was highlighted yesterday as the trade union daily, *Trud*, published an appeal from official trade unions in the metal, engineering, defence and chemical sectors to the miners to go back to work.

Oil spill to cost Exxon $1.1bn

Washington — The Exxon Corporation has agreed to pay $1.1 billion (£600 million) to settle civil and criminal claims arising from an oil spill off Alaska two years ago. The settlement, which includes a fine of $100 million, is the largest in the United States for environmental damage (Susan Ellicott writes).

Under an agreement yesterday, the company will spread its payment over ten years in order to restore the ecologically sensitive area along the coast, coated in crude oil on March 24, 1989, when the Exxon Valdez ran aground on a reef. The ship lost about 11 million gallons in the worst oil spill in American history.

Environmental groups complained that the agreement did not set aside enough money to restore the shoreline.

Summit date

Moscow — A meeting between President Gorbachev and President Bush, postponed from February, could take place in May, Tass news agency said. The views on the summit of James Baker, the US Secretary of State, would be considered with interest when he arrives in Moscow today, it said. *(Reuter)*

Arrest overruled

Dhaka — Shah Moazzem Hossain, a former deputy prime minister of Bangladesh, has been released from jail, saying his immediate task was to free former President Ershad, from police custody. Mr Hossain, was arrested in December. The High Court ruled this week that his detention was illegal. *(Reuter)*

No contest

Nairobi — Kenya has refused to register an opposition political party launched by Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, a former vice-president, in defiance of the country's one-party constitution. He announced the launch of his National Democratic party a month ago. *(Reuter)*

Menem divorce

Buenos Aires — Zulema Yoma, the wife of President Menem, is about to file for divorce, accusing him of virtually every misdeed Argentine laws mention as grounds for divorce, her lawyer said. The president, aged 60, also in trouble on the political front, was not available for comment. *(Reuter)*

Albanians forsake freedom for profit

FROM ANDREW MCEWEN IN BRINDISI

HUNDREDS of young Albanian men have deserted the schools and camps which Brindisi opened for them, and returned to the port where they landed last week. Their ill-assorted clothes and plastic bags made them a picture of deprivation, but their faces told another story. If these were disappointed emigrants abandoning a dream, they seemed surprisingly cheerful.

The probable explanation lay in the bags, filled with secondhand clothes donated by local people. Although worthless in Italy, the clothes are valuable in Albania.

Some of the men made no secret of their intention of selling them at high prices on their return. They appear to have got the idea after telephoning friends who returned home on board the freighter Tirana on Sunday.

Few local people have realised that a minority of the Albanians are planning to profit from their generosity. Newspapers describe them as "the repentant ones" and editorials have expressed surprise that they should reject their new home so quickly.

The Italian authorities are expected to give clearance for them to leave, in spite of a court order impounding the 18 ships which brought them here. Apart from the Tirana, a Panamanian ship, My Legend, has been allowed to leave, and the port of Durres has sent a delegation to negotiate the release of the others.

After a week of remarkable tolerance and generosity, the people of Brindisi are becoming wary of their guests. The departure of a further 4,000 Albanians for other parts of Italy yesterday brought relief.

There has been increased tension after the attempted rape of an Albanian woman. In another incident two Albanian husbands have complained that their wives had been abducted. A prostitution racket is suspected of being involved.

● **ROME:** Albania, which resumes diplomatic relations with the United States this week, may establish ties with the Vatican and Israel, Muhamed Kaplani, the Albanian foreign minister, said yesterday. Albania has rigorously suppressed the Roman Catholic Church since the end of the second world war. In 1967 *it* declared itself the world's first atheist state.

Tirana has also formally asked for diplomatic relations with the European Community and is seeking urgent humanitarian aid. Mr Kaplani said he also expected an early resumption of relations with Britain. *(Reuter)*

Kohl urges new military policy

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERMANY must amend its constitution so that its armed forces can join in any future international operations such as the Gulf war, Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, told the Bundestag yesterday. It is, perhaps, no coincidence that he went further than ever before in supporting overseas deployment of the Bundeswehr two days after his successful summit with John Major.

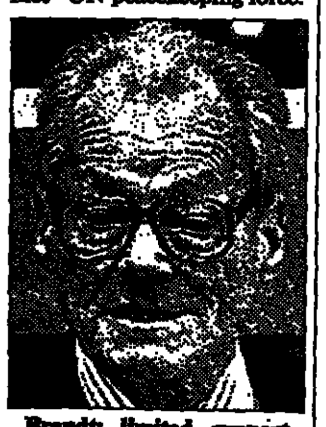
In a long speech on future government policy, the chancellor told members that the end of the division of Germany and the recovery of full national sovereignty had to mean the united country accepted greater responsibility for security in the world.

The chancellor promised last year to seek amendments to the constitution which would allow the armed forces to serve under United Nations command. Yesterday he showed that the outcome of the Gulf conflict had convinced him this was a minimalist approach.

He said that "as a touchstone for the seriousness of our political will to share the burden of maintaining international peace" Germany had to seriously consider sending troops to back up United Nations resolutions. Moreover, he said, the constitution had to allow troops to participate in a future European security structure, possibly set up under the Western European Union (WEU), but still firmly within an unchanged Nato.

This European vision of the Bundeswehr's future role matches the views put forward by Mr Major this week, and Herr Kohl can rely on the support of Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his foreign minister, who is particularly keen on new European security structures.

The SPD, as Willy Brandt, the party's former chancellor made clear yesterday, will support only the "minimalist" idea of joining a "blue helmet" UN peacekeeping force.



Brandt: limited support for changes in army's use

Smoke gets in EC eyes

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE European Community is suffering from a bad case of schizophrenia over cigarettes. With one half of its personality it fights every new cigarette advertising wheeze, while with the other it hands out subsidies to tobacco farmers.

The common agricultural policy occasionally pays farmers to start crops for which there is no demand inside Europe. Shrewd Italian and Greek tobacco farmers have spotted that there are generous funds for so-called "oriental" tobaccos, which are subsidised for sale in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Even better, if they exceed a quota, the EC buys the tobacco and sells it for them with only the lightest cut in price.

Some growers have been shopping around for the most lucrative tobaccos, and then exceeding their quotas by up to 1,000 per cent. Respectable tobacco growers told the European Commission on Friday that it was wasting £140 million each year because of loopholes in the rules.

Tobacco is one of the most heavily subsidised crops but discussion on it is almost always reached at the end of marathon nocturnal meetings when, it is believed, exhausted farm ministers will sign whatever is put in front of them.

Capitalism flourishes in socialists' last resort

THE doorman's smile is at odds with his watchful glance, and the manager of Rügen's best hotel adjusts his sharp Western suit a touch self-consciously before smoothly answering questions which would plunge most east Germans into a rictus of embarrassment.

"Yes, we are the same management as before," he says cheerfully. "Our former guests demanded the best standards. Now we are just applying them for new customers."

The glossy brochure for the Cliff Hotel on the Baltic island of Rügen evades any mention of its former identity — as the East German central committee's holiday home, the retreat of Erich Honecker and his politburo from the arduous business of ruining the country's economy and morale.

There are still some giveaway signs, however. The foyer features a luminous mural of ecstatic socialist families and the decor is of the gloomy shades-of-brown variety favoured by the old elite.

Their continuing obsession with health is reflected in a gymnasium more suitable for training the redoubtable East German Olympic team than pandering to the gerontobureaucracy which ran the country.

The islanders are still bursting with tales of how the site was guarded by special troops with machineguns who would take pot shots at innocent holidaymakers who strayed too close to the perimeter fence. They bitterly complain that the "Red Socks" who ran the place before are now profiting from its privatisation.

Uwe Kussmaul, the manager, is disarmingly frank about the new owners: "Well, you're right, it is us, the people who ran it before, except that now we have founded a limited company."

A conspiratorial smile follows. "Capital rules the world these days, don't you agree?"

The island remains a corner of the old East Germany, having escaped the modernisation brought to more accessible parts of the country by unification. True, the flags celebrating the Free German Youth have been replaced by those advertising car firms, but the menus still feature the dubious east German luxuries of tinned asparagus and elderly vegetables.

The only difference is that you can get fish these days. It was a standard joke about the economy that an island where everyone had a fisherman in the family managed to run short of fish in the shops for most of the year.

Until recently, Rügen was the favoured retreat of the central committee and its guests from other communist countries. Herr Honecker had his personal hideaway on the neighbouring island of Vilm, which was not shown on maps until the late 1980s, and then only with the legend: "Landing strictly forbidden — Council of Ministers."

Devoid of the nomenklatura's visits, however, Rügen is now struggling for survival. Most of the island was employed in the tourism industry, in hotels owned by the communist party, trade unions or the ministry of state security.

All but a handful have closed since the collapse of the communist regime. The Cliff Hotel attracts curious guests anxious to swim in the politburo swimming pool or receive the attentions of Margot Honecker's hairdresser. But the cars are all from western Germany.

"There is no money for tourism in the east at the moment," Herr Kussmaul admits. His only guests from what was the German Democratic Republic have been former central committee members seeking a hideaway where they are unlikely to be recognised by the people who were once their subjects.

"They still like coming," Herr Kussmaul says with some satisfaction. "Except that now they have to foot the bill themselves."

Anne McElvoy

India braces for turmoil of May general election

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

AFTER a week of political uncertainty, Indian MPs were told yesterday to prepare for an election in late May. The poll will be a test of the country's increasingly unstable democracy.

President Venkataraman's announcement, a day after parliament was dissolved, ended seven bizarre days in Indian politics. Attempts continued until the final hours to piece together a coalition government, in the hope of stalling an election until the country was in better shape.

Rajiv Gandhi, leader of the Congress (I) party, tried to manoeuvre himself into the prime ministership at the head of a new coalition, but could not get enough supporters. There was talk of a merger between his party and the outgoing governing group, the Janata Dal (S), but that came to nothing.

To add to the sense of unreality, parliament carried on enacting far-reaching legislation, mostly without any debate, including an interim budget and an extension of emergency rule in Punjab. It was the first time parliament had continued in session after the formal acceptance of a prime minister's resignation. It was a vital manoeuvre: without it, parliamentary authority to continue spending public funds would have expired at the end of this month.

The electoral commission said the poll would be held in the latter half of May. By then most of the country will be hot, making campaigning difficult. The crucial question is whether violence will erupt on a big scale, given the existing tension between Hindus and Muslims after widespread communal bloodshed last October and November.

Two governments have come and gone since Mr Gandhi was defeated in the last election in November 1989, creating a sense of political instability that has permeated many states, where law and order problems have worsened. Some of the biggest states, including Bihar, are in the hands of criminals posing as politicians. Punjab and Kashmir, both under emergency rule, are likely to be excluded from the election.

Nothing suggests that Mr Gandhi will make a comeback in his northern Hindi stronghold where he was routed in 1989, particularly as he has failed to institute long-promised reforms in his party, leaving it demoralised and moribund.

Elections are determined by Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, which together have 120 seats, almost a fifth of the total. There is not much comfort for Mr Gandhi here. Muslims, who influence the outcome in at least half those constituencies, are upset by his ambivalent position over a disputed religious site in Ayodhya. Nor are they impressed by his belated and unconvincing attempt to sound anti-American during the Gulf war.

Mr Gandhi has been discredited by his erratic political tactics in the past four months. While supporting Chandra Shekhar's minority government, he threatened, cajoled and ridiculed it.

Hindus and Muslims have clashed with greater ferocity than at almost any time since independence 44 years ago, mostly over the Ayodhya dispute. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who preceded Mr Chandra Shekhar as prime minister, has adopted caste as his political platform, the only mainstream politician to do so. He is attracting support from low castes by promising to reserve government jobs for them. This has created a high-caste backlash. Many upper castes are turning to the Hindu orthodox organisation, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

All eyes are on the BJP, which has the clout to mobilise numerous Hindus. It controls two big states, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, as well as the small Himalayan state of Himachal Pradesh. Many people blame it for the communal confrontation.

These developments are threatening the traditional dominance of the Congress (I) party, which is struggling to keep its alliance of Harijans (untouchables), Muslims and Brahmins. Most analysts believe the election will produce another hung parliament.

Leading article, page 15

Lakeside vigil: American soldiers, perched on empty coffins, gaze across the waters of Lake Ilopango, in El Salvador, as colleagues search for a US army helicopter which crashed into the lake last month, with four military personnel on board. Left-wing rebels of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front ended a three-day truce, called during legislative and local elections held last Sunday, when they shot down a Salvadorean helicopter gunship, using a ground-to-air missile (Reuter reports). The two pilots and a gunner on board were killed in the attack near the village of Concepción Corozal, about 100 miles east of San Salvador. It was the third successful use of such missiles by rebels in the 11-year civil war. Officials said the election results might not be known for days and promised that allegations of voting fraud would be checked. Ruben Zamora, a leader of the moderate left-wing Democratic Convergence coalition, earlier accused the governing Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena) party and election authorities of brutal and open electoral fraud to cut his party's share of the vote. Unofficial results give Arena at least 43 per cent of the vote and their leaders say they have won an absolute majority in the 84-seat national assembly. Unofficial projections put the former ruling Christian Democrat party second. Democratic Convergence was running third with at least 12 per cent of the vote, more than three times its 3.8 per cent share of the 1989 ballot.

Mandela named in wife's trial

From RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON Mandela, deputy leader of the ANC, gave orders from prison for the family lawyer to visit his wife's home and take away two youths allegedly abducted there, it was claimed in court here yesterday.

Barend Thabiso Mono, aged 22, the second state witness called in the Rand Supreme Court trial of Winnie Mandela and three others on kidnapping and assault charges, pointed to Ismail Ayob, the instructing solicitor for the defence team.

Mr Mono gave his evidence in his native Sotho language and answered questions through an interpreter. He said Mr Ayob and Krish Naidoo, another leading black lawyer, arrived at Mrs Mandela's home in Soweto early in January, 1989, and said Mr Mandela had told them "to fetch two people from that place". He said that Jerry Richardson, "coach" of Mrs Mandela's bodyguards, the "Mandela United Football Club", and Xoliswa Falati, aged 36, one of Mrs Mandela's three co-accused, objected.

Mrs Mandela outside the court yesterday

After a second visit by the lawyers, Mr Mono said, he and Gabriel Pelo Mekgwe were taken to Mr Ayob's offices in Johannesburg. Subsequently, they were taken to the home of Dr Nthato Motlana, a leading activist in Soweto, after which they gave an account of alleged kidnapping and assault to a church crisis committee.

Mr Mekgwe, who was also due to testify for the state, disappeared in Soweto shortly before the trial began on February 6. Mr Mono and Kenneth Kgase, aged 31, who left the witness box on Tuesday after four days of cross-examination, originally refused to give evidence, saying that they feared for their lives.

The trial, in which Mrs Mandela and her three co-accused have pleaded not guilty to charges of kidnapping and assault, resumed last week after a fortnight's adjournment.

Mr Mono said yesterday that he was slapped, punched and whipped by Mrs Mandela after he, Mr Mekgwe, Mr Kgase and Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, a 14-year-old activist, were abducted to her home from a Methodist church manse in Soweto in December, 1988. He said: "She hit me with open hands and fists on my face." He referred to Mrs Mandela as "Mamie" and said that Richardson, sentenced to death last August for the murder of "Stompie" Moeketsi had told the four of them not to call her anything except "Mamie".

Biographer baffled by Reagan enigma

From CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

THE mind of Ronald Reagan remained a mystery to many of his countrymen throughout his presidency. Was he a genius with the wisdom of a Washington, or was he a charming but empty core of an epic image-making feat?

Since little light was shed by Mr Reagan's ghost-written memoirs, published last year, historians have been waiting for the authoritative account of the man from Edmund Morris, the official Reagan biographer. For the last four years of the presidency, Mr Morris, who won the Pulitzer prize for a biography of Franklin Roosevelt, was admitted to the most private moments of Mr Reagan's White House and family life with the object of painting the definitive portrait of the man. But Mr Morris has found his subject to be "the most mysterious man I have ever confronted".

"It is impossible to understand him," Mr Morris lamented to academics at the University of Virginia. "I went through a period of a year or so of depression because I felt that, with all my research, how come I can't understand the first thing about him? I only came out of this despair when I found out that everybody else who had ever known him, including his wife, is equally bewildered."

The biography is due out next year. Random House, its publishers, hope it will do better than the Reagan memoirs, which were outsold by the ghost-written memoirs of Millie, the George Bush family dog.

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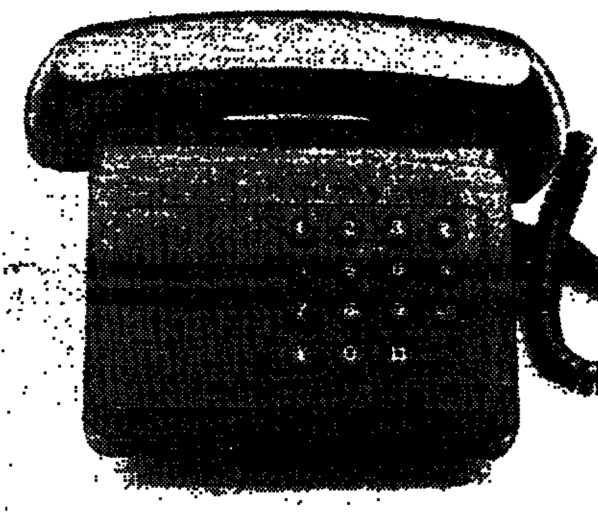

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Lamont must engage neutral

Nicholas Ridley

Norman Lamont brings in his first Budget next Tuesday in a difficult economic climate. Tax revenues must be running well below his expectations, because of the recession, while expenditure must be on an upward course because of the demands on the defence budget of war in the Gulf, and Michael Heseltine's demands for money to throw at the community charge. The government appears to be a pretty soft touch for spending on any good cause that comes along. We already know that the days of government surpluses are over, and that the government is in the market for borrowing to cover its deficit. That deficit could get uncomfortably large next year if no changes are made. In these circumstances, a Chancellor would normally be thinking about increasing taxes.

Circumstances, however, are not normal. The recession is turning out to be much more severe than the government expected. Business and industry are caught in a double squeeze: interest rates are still extremely high, even with base rate at 13 per cent, and the overvalued pound is kept up in the European exchange-rate mechanism, making it hard to secure export orders or to replace imports. The seriousness of the recession is being signalled by M0, the most basic measure of the amount of money in circulation, which is growing at an annual rate of only 3 per cent. This is almost certainly less than the present rate of inflation, and as low as M0 has been. The economy is in a severely depressed condition, and it is likely to get worse. As this happens the public finances will deteriorate, income tax coming in being replaced by unemployment pay going out, and company profits becoming company losses. Few would disagree, outside the Treasury at least, that we are now witnessing a serious dose of overkill, partly as a result of the decision to join the ERM at DM2.95, but more importantly because interest rates have been kept high to defend that rate.

Lamont: base rates must fall

The three most recent Chancellors, Nigel Lawson, John Major and Norman Lamont, have all eschewed the fiscal weapon — they dismiss it as "fiscal fine-tuning" — and have relied entirely on interest rates to steer the economy. This was the method used to tackle excess demand from 1988-90, in my view mistakenly. Taxation should have been increased in 1989 and/or in 1990 to reduce demand, and interest rates lowered accordingly.

Because of this interest-rate doctrine, a vital element is missing from economic policy — that is the policy of getting the right balance between fiscal and monetary policy. This has important implications for the distribution of any burdens among taxpayers. Since taxes were not used to curb excess demand, there is no point in now using tax cuts to stimulate it. Since interest rates were used to curb demand, there is every reason now to reduce them.

This would be doubly beneficial. It would take the pressure off industrial borrowing and investment, and it should help bring the pound down to a more realistic exchange rate. The pound needs to fall by at least 10 per cent against the Deutschmark to price industry back into markets. America has sensibly pursued such a policy, cutting interest rates, and the falling dollar, in spite of a recent upturn, is the mirror image of the rising pound. We can expect more American imports and fewer British exports to America unless we use base rates to price us back into our markets.

So the right Budget for Britain contains at least a two-point cut in interest rates. Mr Lamont should ignore the hand-wringing of dedicated Europeans who are ERM lovers. We made a mistake in joining, and it is wiser to admit that, and let the pound float where it will, thereby bringing popularity to the government. After all, we would only be following the advice of the guru of the exchange-rate mechanism, Karl Otto Pöhl, who said recently: "Interest rates should be set according to domestic monetary conditions, while exchange rates should be allowed to go where they will."

The Chancellor should also put aside the absurd new doctrine which says that he should follow inflation down with interest-rate cuts. The retail price index is a useless measure of inflation in two ways: it includes things that are cures, not causes, of the disease, such as poll taxes and mortgage interest. But, more important, it compares prices with those of 12 months ago. What matters is what inflation is doing now; and it is certainly now far lower than the RPI indicates. Inflation may even have already been beaten. All this is not to advocate policies of demand management again; I remain a firm believer in monetary policy. The money supply has become inadequate because of the prolonged base-rate squeeze, a state identical to the one Keynes identified in the late 1920s. With M0 growing at a rate lower than the rate of inflation, monetary policy is signalling the need for relaxation, not just demand management.

The Budget should therefore be neutral in terms of demand: all the relaxation that is needed (and a lot is) should be done through base-rate reductions. Doing nothing much on taxes and spending will be an added stimulus, as we shall be moving into quite heavy government deficit. On Mr Lawson's analysis, that is not inflationary; it merely transfers spending power from the holders of gilt-edged to the government. It is not inflationary provided the deficit is genuinely financed.

A neutral Budget is, of course, not one without tax increases. It should be neutral in real terms. We have had about 10 per cent inflation over the past year, and excise duties could safely be raised to catch that up. I hope Mr Lamont will also use the prospect of declining interest rates to deal with mortgage interest relief. The only fair policy is to phase out the relief for new mortgages: he cannot take retrospective action. A decent cut in interest rates would be more valuable to first-time buyers than the tax relief.

Michael Evans, in Kuwait, argues that tactical brilliance, not just force of arms, won the Gulf war

Yes, it really was a famous victory

Two weeks have passed since the liberation of Kuwait and already questions are being asked: was it a classic battle or just an easy rout? Did the Americans, British, French and others really have to send so many troops and so much equipment to deal with a Third World army? If there is a next time, could we get away with deploying half as much?

These questions are going to be examined endlessly. The process has already begun. The British Army's director of doctrine has just arrived at the headquarters of the 1st Armoured Division near Kuwait City. Members of the Commons defence select committee are due there soon.

The troops are packing up and going home, most not having fired one shot in anger. Many British infantrymen spent the 100-hour ground war in the back of Warrior armoured fighting vehicles, dressed in nuclear, biological and chemical suits. The enemy they had come to fight with fixed bayonets seemed interested only in waving white flags. After the euphoria of victory has died down it may become tempting for people to dismiss the liberation of Kuwait as an affair so one-sided that it does not merit an honourable place with the great battles of the past. That would be unfair.

For although the enemy proved wanting, the tactics for defeating the Iraqis followed classic principles laid down in the 1930s by two great armoured warfare strategists, Sir Basil Liddell Hart and Major-General John "Boney" Fuller. Their vision of an expanding torrent of force through a point of entry in enemy battle-lines was similar to the plan devised by General Norman Schwarzkopf.

Fuller envisaged fleets of tanks advancing like battleships against the enemy. Liddell Hart devised the principle of manoeuvre warfare. Against the Iraqis, the Schwarzkopf concept was based on "cascading battle groups", pursuing one objective after another. The impact of that strategy after the first night of the ground offensive will never be forgotten by those who took part. When dawn came, Iraqi tanks were burning everywhere, troops giving up in their thousands.

But the allied torrent of force continued expanding, driving deep into enemy positions. The 1st Armoured Division's mission was to destroy the tactical reserves in central Kuwait to prevent them from counter-attacking against the US 7th Corps, which was sweeping round behind the Republican Guard in southern Iraq. Liddell Hart and Fuller worked on the theory of exploiting the gaps in enemy defences, not attacking "surface" positions, such as the Iraqi front-line troops.

The intention of this strategy was to get into the decision cycle of the enemy, so that they were always outwitted. The western flanking manoeuvre was a classic demonstration. Not only were the Iraqis duped, they were unable to respond even when they realised that allied armour was massing well to the west of Kuwait and driving through southern Iraq. The British captured electronic intelligence equipment that showed the Iraqis had traced the thrust across central Kuwait. But their ground forces were too committed to their positions, too inflexible to react. In the event, the Iraqi units that were attacked from the front tended to fight back, while those attacked from the rear gave up immediately. Had the allies done what the Iraqis wanted, and advanced towards their defensive positions from the south, it would indeed have been a war with many casualties.

Yet victory was not due to strategy alone. For the British forces, there were two other essential elements, known to commanders in the British Army of the Rhine as *Auftragstaktik*, mission-orientated orders, and *Beweglichkeit*, battle drill.

The British forces in Germany had only recently changed from training with detailed written orders, in which every move is plotted, to mission-orientated orders, in which commanders are given only objectives. The battle drills, or standard operating instructions (SOIs), for the liberation of Kuwait were carefully worked out, with simple graphics, to ensure that everyone knew exactly how they would go to war. For example, within the 4th Armoured Brigade the 3rd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers always advanced on the left, with the Royal Scots on the right. That meant radio orders could be kept to a minimum once the advance had begun.

Such precision won the war both from the air and on the ground. The Iraqis were unable to compete. But that does not devalue the allied achievement. It has been said that few plans survive "H hour". This one did in every detail, on both the operational and tactical level.

Print and be dazzled

Any topic, however esoteric, can be made gripping by inspired exposition, says Bernard Levin

The new editor of *The Times Literary Supplement*, Ferdinand Mount (Ferdie to all) has been quick to change the layout; its new dress is both handsome and inviting. Ferdie knows, of course, that it *is* the merchandise, not the wrapping-paper, which sells the goods; it is going to be great fun watching as he carefully, not too quickly, also changes the contents.

I believe that what I call the inertia of newspaper reading is at its most powerful in Britain. To persuade a reader of one newspaper or magazine to change allegiance to another demands an enormous amount of time, money and ingenuity; up and down the land, every breakfast time, people leap to their feet, fling their newspaper to the floor, stamp on it vigorously, and cry "I won't have that rag in the house another day." But next day it is still there.

The corollary, of course, is that when the devotion is felt to be betrayed, the screams of wounded tradition can be heard even above the thudding of the disappointed readers jumping on their papers. When, in May 1966, *The Times* ceased to devote the entire front page to small-ads and put news on it, the national suicide rate rose by an average of 16 per cent for the first three months, but this dismal figure (none the less dismal for being made up by me just now) was followed by the result of an opinion poll that asked *Times* readers whether they had come to terms with the new appearance, whereupon 87 per cent of them (provenance of figure the same) declared they had not noticed it.

Ferdie, then, has a considerable task before him. It can be done; Max Hastings, when he was made editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, managed, with infinite tact, to bring it at least into the 20th century, though it is true that he had one unique advantage, which was that roughly a third of his regular readers were dead, and indeed buried, or at least embalmed, thus being in no position to complain.

On the eve of the appearance of the new-style *TLS*, there was a feature in *The Guardian* about literary magazines, and naturally Ferdie's views and intentions were canvassed. So, however, were those of Ferdie's chief assistant, Alan Jenkins, and it was something he said that gives me my text for today. Discussing the *TLS*, Mr Jenkins put it this way:

> We have an image problem . . . There's no doubt that it's *perceived* to be a rather stuffy and forbidding publication, and there's no question that in some areas it's *necessarily* forbidding. For example, a book on Byzantine coinage — you can't make it that interesting to someone who isn't interested in Byzantine coinage; those areas are going to seem of necessity quite unattractive.

That is where I part company with Mr Jenkins's views. He instanced a book on Byzantine coinage, clearly intending his example to provide the most powerful barrier to a wider readership. But from long and searching experience, I believe that no such barrier exists, in the case of Byzantine coinage or in any other topic.

To start at a tangent, I can offer one genuinely enthralling and entirely accessible aspect of Byzantine coinage, which is that the word "Byzantine" holds the English language record for the number of ways a word can be acceptably pronounced; I believe "Byzantine" can be spoken in nine ways, every one justifiable. Imagine turning to your neighbour at table and asking: "What do you do?", to receive the apparently daunting reply: "I am a Professor of Byzantine Coinage, but I don't expect you to be interested in the subject." Off you go at once with the pronunciation game, and while the potatoes are coming round you are getting on like a house on fire, particularly if you know something recondite about potatoes.

Now I am going to be serious. I most profoundly believe, and I have been testing my belief all my life, that there is *no* subject which cannot be made interesting, given — this is the great barrier, not the subject itself — that the expert on it knows how to make it meaningful and even exciting to the layman.

Obviously, I demand a great deal; there is many an expert who can do no more by exposition than go on repeating his incomprehensible jargon. I have in my time read more reviews of that kind in the *TLS* than any man should have to do without being paid for his suffering; Ferdie's ultimate aim should be to exclude anything that *only* fellow-experts can understand. Nuclear power, fossils, molecular biology, quarks, higher mathematics (my brother-in-law is a higher mathematician), bee-keeping, death, Swedenborg, the internal combustion engine, the Rt Hon Edward Heath, the *Lusiads*, the theory of chance, the inside of the head of Gary Kasparov, evolution, earthquakes and Mozart: all these things and a great many more have I heard expounded and explained by a man or woman wise and eloquent enough to make me understand their essence, and I am the better and rounder man for it.

Remember that the expert is always keen to explain his subject to the laity, and the reason is obvious: he is tired of explaining it to his fellow experts, who want only to put forward their own version of the subject. That Professor of Byzantine Coinage who said "I don't expect you to be interested in the subject" was dying to hear you say "Oh, yes, I would love to hear all about it". That in itself is no guarantee that he can make you understand, but even if he cannot, you are not altogether helpless; ingenious questions can elicit fascinating answers.

I once revealed to my readers that in my library (which I believe is the most eclectic on earth, if not in the entire history of printing), I have, somewhere on my shelves, a book called *A History of False Teeth*. There is no joke or trick; it is exactly what its title said it was, and I read it, enthralled, from beginning to end. Some of my readers responded by asking "What is the use of knowing the history of false teeth?" If the question is to be answered literally, I have to say that there is no use in it; after all, if I did *sit next to the author at dinner, he could not* tell me anything I didn't already know. For that matter, I know that camels can't walk backwards, and I recently added to my store of useless zoological information the fact that snakes are deaf, neither of these facts being of any actual or potential use.

But that brings me round the circle to where I started; between you and me, I don't care a bit about Byzantine coinage, and the expert offering to explain it to me would only be explaining himself and his ability at exposition, so that I would leave thinking "What an interesting man" rather than "What an interesting subject".

And why not, Ferdie? Why not "What a lucid review", instead of "What an important subject"? Come: did not Montaigne himself say "*Quand je me joue à ma chatte, qui sait si elle passe son temps de moi plus que je ne fais d'elle?*" No doubt some of my readers cannot read French; well, what pleasure they are going to have when they are seated next to a professor of that language who can expound its nature in a way they can understand.

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

For some time now I have walked with nothing to tell me how far I have gone, how long my journey has taken, nor at what speed I covered the ground. As one foot was plonked firmly in front of the other, then the other in front of one, the view did not change: there was the bed, the bookshelf, the mother-in-law's tongue, which flourishes by the western light of the window, and a picture by Papas that I bought for £450 in Belfast 30 years ago — when I could have bought a Bacon or a Piper. The Papas has shown a steady appreciation of 4 per cent per annum. Bacons have risen by 2,000 per cent. That is why the Papas is in the spare room.

Before it went wrong I used to walk for great snatches of time with my eyes closed. I knew what I was doing. Kipling's *Boots*, that is to say such of Kipling's *Boots* as I remembered, advanced me 240 metres: "We're foot-slog-slog-slog-sloggin' over Africa — foot-foot-foot-foot-sloggin' over Africa — boots-boots-boots-boots-movin' up an' down again! There's no discharge in the war!" Thirty metres a verse, ten paces between verses; then open my eyes and check the figures on the liquid display panel attached to the frame of my treadmill in the inexorable daily journey towards 3,500, which is the distance by which time the very hot bath run half an hour earlier is at an acceptable temperature.

For months now there has been an uncompromising row of eights when I pressed Distance. Speed has lost each of the five uneven digits so that I walk in unrelieved 2s, 4s, 6s and 8s either side of the decimal point. Time is blank: "Try, try, try, try to think of something different. Oh my God, *keep me from going* lunatic. Boots, boots . . ." I have a watch but it is not the same; I want documentary evidence of my exertions.

(A friend gave me the walking machine after the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics when he saw the light and found health. He had been an A personality: dominant, assertive, impatient, difficult. Exercise and contemplation had transformed him into an altogether more relaxed, amenable B person who could endure traffic jams. His gift, intended to downgrade my persona alphabetically, was made as a religious convert might give a missal. He said it would benefit my cardiovascularity. As the machine is six feet long by two-and-a-half feet wide and stands four feet tall it seemed just the thing to put into the spare room and discourage house guests. Then I got hooked.)

On Tuesday after the first race at Cheltenham, which had been a good thing for Granville Again — "Bet of the meeting," wrote Brough Scott on Sunday; nap, stated Mandarin on page 41 of *The Times*; "Top class novice sure to win more races," added *Timeform* — I was watching the connections of Destriero talk of their seven-figure win (their horse turned out to have been a better thing) when the buzzer for the downstairs door buzzed. Hallo, said I. Engineer, said the voice below. Come up, I said, right to the top. Sorry about *no lift*.

In God's good time the engineer reached the summit, asked where it was. I showed him. What's wrong? he asked. I told him. He said it sounded like the membrane, what did I think? I thought that if I knew what a membrane on a state-of-the-art Japanese treadmill was, I might become an engineer. He said he would go down and get his tools; I gave him a key so that he could stop buzzing the entryphone.

In the second race at Cheltenham I was confident about Uncle Ernie. *Sporting Life*, *The Sun*, *The Star* and *Today* tipped him; "Has a turn of foot, jumps well, will continue to give a very good account of himself," wrote *Timeform*. Remittance Man won. The engineer came back, asked if I might let him have some pound coins for the parking meter. I gave him three; he left.

I got ready for the Champion Hurdle. He came back. Beech Road, who won two years ago, was an outstanding each-way bet at 8-1. I bet him each way. *Timeform* said he jumps hurdles quickly and well, has a fine turn of foot. The engineer went down and came up again, showing a turn of foot which struck me as less than fine, said he did not know why I needed the walking machine when I had all those stairs. Morley Street won the Champion Hurdle. Beech Road came ninth. I told the engineer that I might be pushed to pay his repair bill.

THE TIMES DIARY

The spoilers of war

The British Army returning from Kuwait may not be allowed to keep its spoils of war. The 4th Armoured Brigade had planned to bring home more than 100 items of equipment abandoned by the Iraqis, including tanks, missile launchers and guns, much of it expected to end up as regimental war trophies. Other brigades were proposing to use Iraqi military hardware for firing practice. But both plans have been scuppered by the realisation that tanks, artillery and armoured personnel carriers transported to Britain or Germany will fall foul of the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, which the Western allies hope will shortly be ratified with President Gorbachev. Much of the Iraqi's ineffectual equipment was manufactured and supplied by the Russians — a fact that does not affect how the hardware will be counted under the treaty.

Denis Healey, former foreign secretary, says: "It's a serious question. If it was placed in Europe it would definitely be counted under CFE. It will probably have to be left in the desert, just as we left pillboxes dotted along the southern coast after the last war." General Sir John Hackett is equally in no doubt that the army should leave it behind. "It should be left there to rot in peace," he says.

When Hackett returned in the 1950s to the Western Desert, where he had served with the Desert Rats in the second world war, it was littered with rusting tanks. "They are probably still there. I suspect the bulk of Iraq's equipment will have to stay where it is for generations to come."

The Ministry of Defence declines to discuss whether the army can keep its booty, but it apparently has one contingency plan for getting round the CFE restrictions. The army would love to ship its spoils to a Nato firing range in Canada, outside the CFE area, and give allied forces the chance to finish off the job they started in operation Desert Storm.

● *Kenneth Baker, while party chairman, found himself in a constant state of civil war with Tory party workers in Scotland. He has not missed them since his move to the Home Office, but had an unexpected reunion in Downing Street recently. As the home secretary arrived for a meeting, John Major was winding up a session with leading Scottish Tory officials. "I see you have all managed to find gainful employment," Baker remarked sardonically. "Funny you should say that, Ken," said Major. "They were saying exactly the same thing about you."*

Silver handshake

Christie's has unwittingly provided a bargain for one of the experts it dismissed last year to cut costs. To the embarrassment of his former employers, Charles Truman, head of silver until December, last week spotted a silver dish catalogued as from "Turin, probably mid-17th century, maker's mark possibly a bird". The price was estimated at £1,500 to £2,000: Truman paid £12,200 in the expectation of making much more.

"I bought it for stock — laughing stock," he says triumphantly. "The mark was the lion of St Mark's — meaning it was made in Venice and dates from 1490. The combination of Gothic and Renaissance ornament is typically Venetian." A comparable piece fetched around £35,000 at Sotheby's in Geneva in 1988.

Charles Allsopp, Christie's chairman, laughs the matter off. "Charles Truman would be less than well advised to make anything of last week's sleeper," he says. "He let through an absolute whopper last year, which fortunately hasn't been disclosed."

All fired up

Britain's answer to Red Adair is to publish the first DIY manual on putting out oil-well fires. Ken Fraser, Britain's only oil-well firefighter — indeed, the only specialist outside America — confidently expects to be summoned to Kuwait. "We've been in discussions, and anyone who can spell 'well control' is going to be pulled in eventually," he says.

Fraser is meanwhile preparing for the publication early next month of his do-it-yourself manual. He spent 13 years with Shell before setting up his own trouble-shooting company in Aberdeen and wrote the book, he says, to prove that squads of Texans, led by men with colourful names, are not essential to deal with fires. "You can take my book and go to Kuwait and do the job yourself," he says. "It's just O-level physics."

What's in a word?

Church leaders are not the only ones agonising over the justness of the Gulf war. Liberal Democrats are equally divided over the line Paddy Ashdown should take in his keynote speech to the party's annual spring conference this weekend. While John Major and Neil Kinnock have had no hesitation in describing the war as "just", Ashdown is less sure.

"It's not for me to judge whether it is a just war or not. That is for the theologians and bishops. But I take the view it will be a justifiable war," Ashdown said in the Commons immediately before war broke out. Senior party figures have since been urging their leader to use the word "just", but Ashdown is convinced that the distinction is important.

St Thomas Aquinas set out the conditions for a just war in *Summa Theologiae*. "Those whom we attack must have done some wrong which deserves attack and those waging war must intend to promote good and avoid evil," he wrote. Ashdown's office was unable to spell out where the Liberal Democrat leader's view differs from such an authoritative source, but linguistic experts say justifiable is a more recent addition to the English language. "It's a weaker word and is used by lawyers and politicians as opposed to theologians," says one expert.

Ashdown might yet change his mind, but the odds are that he is determined to stick to the politician's word and leave theology to the theologians, not to mention Messrs Kinnock and Major.

TIMES PAST THE TIMES

INTO THE AGONY

The Conservative party's retreat from the poll tax is like Napoleon's retreat from Moscow, predictable, painful but inevitable in its destination. If the options so far presented to the cabinet committee and the party's behaviour in the House of Commons yesterday are any indication, the retreat is becoming a disorderly rout.

There have been alarming signs of agony already. The first was Michael Heseltine's suggestion that a new property tax be based on space or number of rooms rather than value. This was at least objective, but required yet another register. New registers are the last thing any reformer wishes to contemplate. Worse, it rejected any progressive element in the tax, except in so far as larger properties sometimes contain richer people. Poll tax may have been abolished as unfair. But to levy the same charge on a Mayfair apartment and a Stepney council flat is hardly more fair. Taxes on fixed assets should reflect value.

The second sign of trouble was over whether or not to retain some element of the old poll tax as an extra, national charge on top of a property tax. This was a sop to hardline supporters of the poll tax, but with neither local accountability nor any relationship to service quality. It would be purely political and would need an extra register.

More worrying is the proposal that the tax should be based on the capital value of a property, not its old rateable value. True, property values are easily assessable, albeit with yet another register. The more valuable the property, the more tax it should incur, as with income and capital taxes. Such a tax would encourage greater efficiency in the use of property, though it would undoubtedly penalise older people living in valuable houses long after their income has declined.

Yet capital value rating is subject to one overwhelming objection, discussed in a *Times* survey last Saturday. It produces a much wider spread of valuation than does the old rateable value, and thus a wider spread of taxation. Council flats might be valued at near zero. Costly properties would bear an extremely high tax burden. If the poor are to pay anything, and a principle of local taxation is that everybody should, the rich would be truly stung.

In his desperation to avoid this consequence, Mr Heseltine has sought to relieve the burden on single people in large, valuable properties. He proposes a complex system which would assume a house has three occupiers and would allow those with two or one occupier to claim a deduction. This would be more fair, but since many properties have fewer than three adult residents, those that do, mostly families, would have to bear a much higher burden than under ordinary capital valuation. It thus becomes even more savage for the losers. If Mr Major really wants to help the losers in his reform, he would have to give more central grant to local government. That would be expensive.

There is no reason to go down this route at all, except the horror some Tory politicians have of admitting they were wrong to abolish the rates. Every taxpayer in the country is at risk from this pride. A good property tax should fall on everybody in mild proportion to the value and amenity of their house and the quality of its environment, defined as rateable value. Although the rates certainly merited reform, they offered precisely this benefit. Labour, as Bryan Gould indicated yesterday, has now realised this, thus offering the Conservatives an electorally inexpensive way out of their predicament.

The government is working itself into trouble not just of its own making but of its own perpetuating. Its whips' orchestration of yesterday's poll tax debate as a shouting match suggested real panic. The Conservatives have made a mess of local finance in Britain over the past decade. The least they can do is to set it, calmly and sensibly, back to rights.

INDIA'S POLITICAL VICE

President Venkataraman yesterday dissolved the Lok Sabha, India's directly elected lower house of parliament, and embarked the country on an election campaign that nobody wants. No party is likely to gain an overall majority, forcing India to settle for a long (and no doubt rancorous) period of coalition government. That is not the worst of it. Hindu chauvinism is likely to be the principal beneficiary, further imperilling the system of secular democracy vital to India's communal harmony. Enormous care will have to be taken to see that the fanning of political passion at the hustings does not lead to intercommunal violence.

Rajiv Gandhi, leader of Congress, the largest party, expects to improve his position in the crucial northern states of the Gangetic plain, but could lose the remarkable strength he showed in the South at the last outing in November 1989. V. P. Singh, whose Janata Dal (a coalition of competing forces) was the principal component of the National Front government, is now drawing vast crowds of "backward classes" to his political meetings, enthused by his plans to reserve jobs and education for them. The riots and self-immolations which followed his enforcement of those plans enabled the devious Chandra Shekar to split his party and supplant him as prime minister. But Mr Chandra Shekhar's party, with only 54 seats, has failed to establish itself as anything but a band of turncoats and opportunists, creatures of Mr Gandhi's Congress.

These quarrels, remote from the lives of most Indians, made fresh elections unavoidable. The party most likely to benefit is the Hindu chauvinist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led by L. K. Advani. Here lies the greatest danger for the country's secular democracy. The BJP abandoned V. P. Singh's government over the religious dispute surrounding a mosque built by the Mogul emperor Babur on the ruins of a temple at the birthplace of Ram, the sixth incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu.

Professor Advani will campaign on a platform of "Hindu consciousness", appealing to the 80 per cent of the population which follows the Hindu religion. His party stands to gain from agitation over the perceived special treatment given to Muslims, Sikhs and other minorities. It may also result in renewed communal warfare on a scale not seen since partition.

India suffers from the lack of figures with the stature possessed by early Congress leaders to transcend all boundaries within the country, geographical, ideological and communal. To make matters worse, 40 years after independence the world's largest democracy has yet to develop a working two-party system. Votes have tended to be cast either for Congress or against Congress. In this election the votes seem likely to be cast on religious or caste lines.

During the Gulf war, Mr Gandhi wooed the Muslim vote by using Congress's muscle in Parliament to compel Mr Chandra Shekhar's government to act against American interests. He has moved to hold the middle ground in the caste war by concentrating on economic issues, drawing attention to the near-bankruptcy of the country. The official inflation rate is 12.2 per cent; the value of the rupee is falling steadily against world currencies; an emergency IMF loan has narrowly saved the country from defaulting on its debt repayments; fuel rationing is close.

Yet another general election, forced on India by squabbling politicians, holds out little prospect of restoring the stability, economic responsibility and good liberal government India's voters have never needed more desperately. India today is not the India that Mahatma Gandhi died for, nor that Pandit Nehru bestrode. Nor will it be after the vote.

CHANGING BANKS

Bankers, according to Lord Keynes, are the most romantic of men; but their feelings in this regard have rarely been reciprocated by their customers. Whether in Shylock's Venice, or in 19th-century America, or in most of the Third World today, the masses have resented the bankers' pound of flesh. Even fewer people have met a poor banker than have met a poor bookmaker. Popular jealously is compounded by the ostentatious display of wealth which is essential to the banker's trade. Those who would borrow short and lend long must look as if they could never, ever run out of money to repay their depositors.

So bankers, like garages and estate agents, are readily seen as bloodsuckers. Now a Somerset publican has capped all banking horror stories with the tale of how he was charged £25 to be refused an overdraft. The "listening bank", the Midland, listened, said no, and then had the nerve to charge. They cut the charge by two thirds because the publican had briefed the newly-arrived bank manager about the local area.

As the Consumers' Association pointed out in a report in *Which?* in June 1989, banks give wide discretion to local managers as to when and what to charge. The association asked seven typical managers to say how they made up their minds. A common phrase they used was "bad manners". Thus to go into the red without an "arrangement" was a discourtesy, to be punished by a charge. They deduct for contrition, presumably. Unfortunately for customers the survey did not give the name and address of the manager who broke ranks, saying "customers are prime assets who need to be treated fairly, responsibly, and as adults".

Such sentiments are all very well, but do not belong in the modern world. "Bad manners" is a phrase out of the old Britain, where words were bonds, *noblesse oblige*'d, and year by year, the rest of the world left the British trailing in its wake. There was no good reason why customers should pay for the advice of their lawyers and their accountants but not of their bankers. But like airlines, banks were competing not on price but on service; a friendly chat with the bank manager fulfilled the same function as a spoonful of caviar in first class.

Now they compete on price: with building societies, with retail deposit takers, with the credit card firms. They can no longer attract substantial free deposits. They have to earn their crust elsewhere. Flat-rate bank charges are part of the answer. They may be grossly unfair to those customers who want nothing more than the odd bob from the cash dispenser. But one of the essences of a free market economy is to charge at the margin. In this regard, banking services are no different from any other service. Of course, people should be told what they are going to be charged. Another essence of the free market is full information, and the enforced ending of such cartel-like practices as the coordination of bank closing hours. Beyond that, all customers who do not like the service they are getting have a simple choice, to take their custom elsewhere.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Rating system to community charge and back again?

From Mr Nevil Johnson

Sir, The list of community charge levels planned or set which you published on March 9 prompts a number of reflections.

1. The ordinary citizen can now see what level of taxation has been set by his local authority and can compare it with the tax levels set elsewhere. Such transparency was never possible with rates.

2. The community charge thus establishes a degree of public accountability of local authorities for their spending policies and tax demands never known before. What grounds of democratic principle can there be for reversing this remarkable gain?

3. According to my count, only 29 of the local authorities listed proposes to levy a community charge in excess of £450. Of these 24 are Labour-controlled, two have no overall majority, two are Conservative and one is SLD. Strikingly, very many authorities have set tax levels well below £400, and many of these are Labour-controlled.

Similarly every Welsh district listed has a community charge below £300, and more than half of them are Labour-controlled. It all goes to show that a sensible Labour council can be just as efficient as a sensible Conservative council.

4. The levels of community charge listed suggest that any return to a revamped rating system on whatever valuation basis will bring nasty shocks to many councils and most voters. Rarely can so many people have fallen for so many foolish visions of painless ways of raising local revenue as in recent months.

Finally, a word about your table, headed "Impact of capital value based domestic rates, 1990-1", which seems to assume that the amount levied per £ of capital value will be roughly equal in all authorities. Surely this is unrealistic. In authorities with predominantly low capital values the rate poundage will have to be higher to meet a given level of expenditure than in an area with high property values. Under a rating system of whatever kind it is impossible to predict what any particular ratepayer will have to pay – it all depends.

Of one thing, however, we can be certain. A return to rating in whatever guise will mean a return to complex and opaque equalisation schemes and an end to that breath of public accountability and comparison brought into local government by the community charge.

Politicians of all parties should think carefully before they rush into hastily prepared schemes intended to relieve their fears or ease their way into public office. Above all they would be well-advised to turn a deaf ear to your campaign against the community charge.

Yours faithfully,
NEVIL JOHNSON,
Nuffield College, Oxford.
March 11.

From Mr Henry Bear

Sir, Your post-Ribble Valley table, in which you compare current community charges with those planned for 1991-2, makes no mention of the safety net. The charge for Rother, for instance, is shown as rising from £352 to £372 – a modest increase, one might think. In fact the £352 included £55 paid to the safety net, a one-off contribution for 1990-1.

Pending the receipt of a detailed bill from our council, it would appear, therefore, that our averaged county and district spending has increased from £297 to £372 – an extra 24.5 per cent. This safety-net adjustment will obviously apply to the annual comparison for all "paying" councils.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY BEAR,
Clare Cottage, The Village Green,
Brede, East Sussex.
March 11.

From Mr John A. Spence

Sir, Your leading article (March 4) says that the "poll tax has reduced the proportion of local revenue subject to local decision from almost 60 per cent to under 20 per cent in ten years of Conservative rule".

I do not recognise those figures. Domestic and business rates taken together represented about 45 per cent of local revenues in 1981-2. In 1991-2 the community charge is likely to provide about 33 per cent of such revenues.

That is indeed a reduction (although not as dramatic as your figures might suggest), but it hides another and opposite trend which has been happening over those same years, the continuing reduction in the Treasury's (i.e., national taxpayers') contributions to local finances. Government grants represented about 55 per cent of local revenues in 1981-2, and this proportion will fall to about 33 per cent in 1991-2.

What the new system of local government finance introduced this year (1990-1) has done is to appear to make a reduction in "the proportion of local revenue subject to local decision" (your words) by nationalising business rates. But should we not continue to look upon these rates as local revenue?

Certainly central government expects local government to be accountable to local business through the non-domestic ratepayers' consultation regulations, and business rates are still collected locally. That the proceeds should be used to finance local government spending has never been in question.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. SPENCE
(Chairman, Finance Committee,
Association of County Councils),
Kent County Council,
County Hall, Maidstone, Kent.
March 7.

From Lord Armstrong of Ilminster

Sir, It is my belief that, if we are to have any hope of establishing a coherent, durable and effective system of local government, there should be a comprehensive review of every aspect of local government – functions, structure, organisation, standards of conduct, accountability and finance – and of its relationship with central government.

I suggested in my speech in the House of Lords on February 28 that this fundamental review should be undertaken by a Royal Commission. I acknowledged that such a review would take longer than the government's review of structure and finance (itself different from the immediate study of what to do about the community charge) and I did not, as your report indicated, demand or propose a review of the community charge as such, since I recognised that the future of the community charge would have to be decided ahead of any such review.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT ARMSTRONG,
House of Lords.
March 13.

From Mr Michael Ivens

Sir, While the government is looking for alternatives to the poll tax, it might consider the example of Northern Ireland, which doesn't have it. In England, for example, giving local authorities power over education – and the money to implement that power – has proved an educational as well as a financial disaster.

In Northern Ireland, the central department of education provides grants to the five regional education and library boards. They are responsible for passing the money on to the schools.

The results, for Northern Ireland, include no poll tax, the preservation of the grammar schools and educational results that put the rest of Britain to shame. And no politicisation of education.

The education and library boards, incidentally, include Protestants and Roman Catholics.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL IVENS,
40 Doughty Street, WC1.
March 11.

From Mr Patrick Arnold

Sir, There is no such thing as a "poor widow in a large house in a middle-class area" (leading article, March 11). This curious concept of claiming someone is poor when they own a valuable asset is one of the many illogical arguments advanced by the supporters of the iniquitous poll tax.

Would a beggar soliciting alms from the window of a Rolls-Royce receive much sympathy? I think not. Why then should anyone holding capital in the form of land receive public sympathy and tax relief? Of course the widow should sell her large house and remove herself to a property more suited to her needs and pocket.

I can only marvel, as did Thomas Paine, on the ability of the landed to shift taxation away from themselves, to place it on the shoulders of the landless, who were, and always will be, the true "poor".

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK ARNOLD,
11 Erroll Road, Romford, Essex.

From Mr E. M. Greenwood

Sir, I am sure you are right about "back to the rates". Having received my bill for water, based on the old rateable value, surely it would be sensible to collect both water and general rates on the same bill, splitting up the total between the district council and the water board.

Believe me to be, your obedient servant,
E. M. GREENWOOD,
Lane House, Shotteswell,
Banbury, Oxfordshire.

From Mr Bryan Burdett

Sir, Ten years ago the rating system was generally discredited since it reflected neither use of local services nor ability to pay. Today your leader, "No vale of tears", described it as "a short cut to sanity". Perhaps some kind politician will now close the loop by redefining sanity?

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN BURDETT,
York House, 39 The Avenue,
Fareham, Hampshire.
March 9.

Concern over 'virgin births'

From Sir Timothy Raison, MP for Aylesbury (Conservative)

Sir, Page 1 of *The Times* today carries a report on women seeking "virgin births". Page 3 tells us that a substantial survey has found that children of single mothers living alone are particularly unlikely to see their father.

Inexorably the facts about the extent of family breakdown and single parenthood are piling up and the scale of the financial hardship which flows from these conditions is becoming pretty clear.

What we most need now is authoritative research on their emotional and psychological consequences. Then we might get to grips with the crucial question of whether we simply accept what is happening and try to ameliorate the consequences, or whether we might actually try to reverse the trend by education, precept and perhaps incentives to support marriage.

What is happening is simply too sad to be left to sort itself out.

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY RAISON,
House of Commons.
March 11.

From Mr H. V. Hodson

Sir, Talk of "virgin birth" and "fatherless children" is, of course, nonsense. A woman penetrated and inseminated by a surgeon's instrument is no more a virgin than one penetrated and inseminated in the natural way. A birth to a virgin, without the intervention of any male parent, is a unique miracle reserved for Almighty God.

Conception requires the conjunction of ovum and sperm: their producers are the mother and father of the baby conceived. The mother's ignorance of who is the father is irrelevant to that fact.

This is not a mere biological proposition. The child of artificial insemination by an unknown donor, growing up, becomes aware that the pretence of its having no father is and always was false. The trauma the child suffers is quite different from that of other children in so-called "single parent" families, whose fathers are dead or divorced or otherwise permanently absent.

The consciousness of a teenage child that his or her father is not only not present but is actually unknown to his or her mother, who has not even seen him, let alone loved him, must be agonising, and bound to warp a budding personality.

No compassionate person should be party to biological tricks with such an outcome.

Yours faithfully,
H. V. HODSON,
Flat 1, 105 Lexham Gardens, W8.
March 12.

From Ms Jane Ward

Sir, A woman should be free to choose how she becomes a mother – or the rest of her life will be spent in regret.

Yours faithfully,
JANE WARD,
67 Glasslyn Road, N8.
March 11.

From Ms Katie Teakle

Sir, In all the opinionated debate, about imminent "designer progeny" there has been no mention of love. The sexual act can be purely lustful; however within the bounds of kinship it shows, in the most intimate way, vulnerability and generosity. Surely this is what makes us human?

Yours sincerely,
KATIE TEAKLE,
Homestead, Queen's Parade,
Cleethorpes, Humberside.
March 11.

From Dr Richard Wyndham

Sir, The acceptance that creation of human life can be reduced to the mere scientific manoeuvre, of mixing "harvested" ova with masturbated semen on a glass plate, with no human contact at all, must be the ultimate degradation of humanity.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WYNDHAM,
Bramfield House, Barford Road,
Marlingford, Norfolk.
March 11.

From the Reverend R. D. Hacking

Sir, The child of a virginal conception would be remarkable indeed. According to St Augustine, original sin is passed on by the act of sexual intercourse; hence Christ was free from the taint of sin. In consequence any other human born in similar fashion would be likewise.

I am tempted to think that we should go ahead – and prove that St Augustine was, as many of us have maintained, in error.

Yours sincerely,
R. D. HACKING,
Salisbury and Wells
Theological College,
19 The Close,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.
March 13.

Air routes dispute

From the Chairman of the Virgin Group of Companies

Sir, Monopolies always squeal when governments clip their wings. By the amount of squealing BA has been doing the last few days (reports, March 11, 12) one would have thought they had had their wings cut off. In reality all that has happened is the trimming of a couple of extra feathers they had planned to sprout this year.

They still have over 90 per cent of the international traffic carried by British scheduled airlines, and they are still over 20 times bigger than any other British airline.

They claim that the government has taken away two of their Tokyo frequencies and given them to Virgin Atlantic. In fact the Japanese government had agreed to four *extra* weekly frequencies for the UK, which the UK authorities decided should be equally divided between BA and Virgin.

But when it came to landing and take-off slots at Narita airport British Airways sought to capture all the extras. Conditioned by years of monopoly, it tried to claim grandfather rights over all the slots available to the UK. It was prepared to adjust its schedules to release them only if it could monopolise all the extra frequencies for its own benefit. That is what the CAA overruled, rightly.

BA now claims that because of this outrageous Tokyo decision it may stop flying other routes. There is nothing new in this: in the past couple of years numerous routes have been dropped, ranging from Christchurch through the Bahamas to all the Irish routes.

Regards,
RICHARD BRANSON, Chairman,
Virgin Group of Companies,
120 Campden Hill Road, W8.
March 12.

Salisbury Close

From Mr Richard Constable

Sir, Because a great artist created beautiful and enduring images of England it does not necessarily mean that these views should never be changed (Mrs Stone's letter, March 7). Nature alters them herself. Trees grow old and die and river banks erode.

There are instances where well-planned roads enhance the contours of rolling countryside, but surely it is not possible to pierce the charm of the close at Salisbury with an elevated road and do anything but destroy the eternal qualities that such a place personifies?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD CONSTABLE
(Great-great grandson of
John Constable, RA),
Courtfield,
Norton-sub-Hamdon,
Stoke-sub-Hamdon, Somerset.
March 7.

Role of prison

From Mr Anthony Cheshire

Sir, Clifford Longley's article, "Rehabilitation not control" (February 26), represents an idea which is, contrary to his claim, far from revolutionary. Rehabilitation was the primary aim of the prison system in the 1960s, as encapsulated in Rule 1 of the Prison Rules.

As early as 1969, however, it had been shown to be ineffectual: studies showed a consensus that it did nothing to improve reconviction or general crime rates, and in the White Paper of that year, *People in Prison*, the primary aim had switched to being "the protection of society".

As the recent White Paper states, "Nobody now regards imprisonment, in itself, as an effective means of reform for most prisoners". People are sent to prison *as* a punishment, not *for* punishment: it is control, but in a humane way, which must govern the way in which we hold our prisoners.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY CHESHIRE,
St Anne's College, Oxford.
March 1.

Cable TV monopoly

From the General Secretary of the National Communications Union

Sir, Your editorial ("Freeing the phones", March 6) concentrates on the introduction of new competition in the telecommunications services sector. What it does not do is describe the ten-year de facto monopoly which has been granted to cable TV companies in the joint provision of telephony and television.

For at least ten years, and with no commitment to change even then, the government has chosen to prevent consumers from benefiting from the obvious efficiency of combining television with the national communications network which BT provides.

Meanwhile, the cable TV companies, which are overwhelmingly owned by North American telephone and television interests, can luxuriate in a ten-year monopoly while they see if they can put together the effective cable TV industry they have so far failed to provide.

Not only is the consumer denied the rapid emergence of an integrated, high-quality network capable of carrying an array of new services such as high definition television, but the stimulus which this would have provided to the UK optical fibre industry, currently a world leader, is lost.

This comes just as a House of Lords committee launches a scathing attack on the government's failure to display any serious commitment to British industry; a view I can only endorse.

The government's White Paper is an opportunity lost. It may, in ministers' eyes, take one short-term step forward, but it will almost certainly see the UK telecommunications service and equipment industry take two steps backward in the long term.

Yours faithfully,
TONY YOUNG,
General Secretary,
National Communications Union,
Greystoke House,
150 Brunswick Road,
Ealing, W5.
March 7.

Paying a price

From Mr C. Cambouropoulos

Sir, On the occasion of non-smoking day, can anyone explain why, if cigarettes kill, they are still included in the cost of living?

Yours faithfully,
CONSTANTINE
CAMBOUROPOULOS,
Ashcroft, Ringmer, East Sussex.
March 13.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number – (071 782 5046).

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 13: Mr Michael Head was received by The Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Head of the Constitutional Department of the Home Office when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

His Excellency Mr Ivan Stancioff was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Bulgaria to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Mr Christo Halatchev (Minister, Counsellor), Lieutenant-Colonel Stoyan Tsonkov (Military, Naval, and Air Attaché), and Mr Goran Yonov (Counsellor).

Mrs Stancioff was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir Patrick Wright (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Sir Kenneth Bloomfield was received by The Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

His Excellency Mr Ilkka Pastinen and Madame Pastinen were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Finland to the Court of St James's.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Mr Brian Southcott at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Mr Stewart Morris which was held in St Paul's, Knightsbridge this afternoon.

The Prince Edward, Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this evening held a meeting of the Group at Buckingham Palace.

This afternoon The Princess Royal, President, British Olympic Association, attended a National Olympic Committee Meeting at 1 Wandsworth Plain, London SW18.

Afterwards Her Royal Highness, Patron, Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, attended the Launch of "Save Animals From Extinction" at the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London.

Subsequently The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, attended a reception for Commodores of the Association's Clubs and the Annual General Meeting at the Inn on the Park Hotel, Hamilton Place, London W1.

The Countess of Lichfield was in attendance.

The Princess Royal was represented by Brigadier Robin Duchesne at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Mr Stewart Morris (President of the Royal Yachting Association) which was held in St Paul's, Knightsbridge this afternoon.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 13: The Prince of Wales, Patron, National Training Awards 1991, attended the launch of this year's awards at The Brewery, Chiswell Street, London EC1.

Mr Guy Salter was in attendance.

His Royal Highness gave a lunch for the Right Reverend Dr George Carey (the Bishop of Bath and Wells) at Kensington Palace.

The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, received Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey Gates upon relinquishing command of the 1st Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel William Shuttlewood upon assuming the appointment, at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness received the Right Hon John Major, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) at St James's Palace.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, British Lung Foundation, visited British Telecom's London headquarters to see activities organised by the company for employees on No Smoking Day.

Viscountess Campden and Squadron Leader David Barton, RAF, were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 13: The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, the Westminster Society, this evening was present at the Annual General Meeting at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Services, Whitehall, London, SW1.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 13: The Duke of Kent today visited the Headquarters of 3 Transport Group, Royal Corps of Transport (Line of Communication), Marchwood, Southampton, Hampshire, to meet families of personnel deployed to the Gulf.

Captain the Hon Christopher Knollys was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent this evening attended a performance of Bach's *St John Passion* by the King's College Chapel Choir, Cambridge, at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, London, SE10.

Mrs Colin Marsh was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent was represented by Sir Roy Griffiths at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life and Work of Lord Seebohm which was held in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, today.

Dinners

Royal Society
Sir Michael Atiyah, President of the Royal Society, presided at the annual Bakerian lecture delivered by Dr J.T. Houghton at 6 Carlton House Terrace yesterday. Sir Robert Honeycombe, treasurer and vice-president, presided at a dinner held afterwards in honour of Dr Houghton.

Gardeners' Company
Mr Alderman D.H.S. Howard, Master of the Gardeners' Company, assisted by Mr R.C. Balfour and Mr D.E. Dowlen, Wardens, presided at a spring court dinner held last night at Carpenters' Hall. Lord Kenilworth, Mr Alderman P.A. Bull and Mr C.J.K. Ellis also spoke.

Holborn Law Society
The Lord Chancellor and the Master of the Rolls and Lady Donaldson of Lymington attended the annual dinner of the Holborn Law Society held last night at the New Connaught Rooms. Mr Rodney Stubblefield, president, accompanied by Mrs Stubblefield, presided. Mr Norman Tebbit, CH, MP, was the principal guest. Among others present were:

Viscount Lewisham, Lord Templeman, the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire and Lady Scott, Mr Justice and Lady Ward, Judge and Mrs Galpin, the President of the Law Society and Mrs Holland, the Chairman of the Bar, the Secretary General of the Law Society and the Master of the City of London Law Society and Mrs Biddle.

Marlborough College
Mr Nicholas van der Borgh presided at a dinner held last night at the Arts Club for 16 Old Marlburians who joined Preshute in 1956, and their ladies.

Service dinner

Cambridge University Air Squadron
Squadron Leader B.V. Chimes, Commander of Cambridge University Air Squadron, presided at the annual dinner held last night in Selwyn College, Cambridge. Air Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, RAF Support Command, Professor R.A. Hinde, Master of St John's College, Cambridge, and Dr A.W.F. Edwards were the principal guests.

Mr Michael Marshall, Air Vice-Marshal R.M. Austin, Air Officer Commanding and Commandant, RAF College Cranwell, and Group Captain A.N. Wise, Director Headquarters University Air Squadrons, were among the other guests.

Birthdays today

Sir Kenneth Alexander, former vice-chancellor, Stirling University, 69; Miss Pam Ayres, poet, 44; Mr Michael Caine, actor, 58; Mr Jasper Carrott, comedian, 46; Professor Sir Colin Dollery, professor of medicine, 60; Mr John Elton, company director, 67; Mr R.E. Eurich, painter, 88; the Earl of Halifax, 47; the Hon Alan Hare, former chairman, *The Financial Times*, 72.

Sir Richard Hayward, former chairman, Supplementary Benefits Commission, 81; Sir Philip Holland, former MP, 74; Mr Tom Iremonger, former MP, 75; Lord Keyes, 72; Mr Gavin Laird, trades unionist, 58; Air Chief Marshal Sir Douglas Lowe, 69; Mr John McCallum, actor, 73; Lord Marsh, 63; Sir Eric Norris, diplomat, 73; Mr Bill Owen, actor, 76; Sir Richard Parsons, diplomat, 63; Dame Betty Paterson, former chairman, NW Thames Regional Health Authority, 75; Miss Tessa Sanderson, athlete and broadcaster, 35; Mr A.D. Smith, president, Magdalen College, Oxford, 53; Miss Rita Tushingham, actress, 49; Mr John Wain, author, 66.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, as President of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, will deliver the society's annual lecture at the Royal Commonwealth Society at 11.00.

The Princess Royal will attend the Scottish Prison Officers' Association's 50th anniversary conference at the Dunblane Hydro Hotel at 9.25.

The Duke of Gloucester will open the Kent Building Conservation Centre, St John's Road, West Kent College, Penshurst, at 11.50.

The Duke of Kent will attend a presentation of honorary freedoms of the Society of Apothecaries of London and a dinner at Apothecaries' Hall at 6.30.

Princess Alexandra will open the first phase of the building programme at the Central School of Speech and Drama at 2.30.

Felsted School

The following have been awarded Scholarships:

Academic Entrance Scholarships: O S Webber, Old Buckenham Hall; O M H Rooney, Lockers Park; O G Hipperson, Felsted Preparatory School; and Courtauld Classics Scholarship: B P H Dunkley, Felsted Preparatory School; S N Malik, Alleyn Court Preparatory School; N M Taylor, Alleyn Court Preparatory School; T A Swales, Felsted Preparatory School.

Music Scholarships: R O D Balch, Holmwood House Preparatory School; J O Jewell, St Paul's Cathedral Choir School.

Art Scholarships: W F Ives, Felsted Preparatory School; N J Davies, Felsted Preparatory School; M J Perkins, Felsted Preparatory School; R T Wright, Holmwood House Preparatory School.

Cecil Clutton

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Cecil (Sam) Clutton will be held in the Chapel of the Order of the British Empire in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday, April 16, 1991, at 11.30am, followed by an organ recital in the Cathedral.

OBITUARIES

ION GARNETT-ORME

Ion Garnett-Orme, CBE, merchant banker, has died aged 81. He was born on January 23, 1910.

ION Garnett-Orme was formerly chairman of the merchant bank Brown, Shipley & Co and of St Dunstan's, the organisation for men and women blinded in the services. Educated at Eton and Magdalene College, Cambridge, he trained before the war as a stockbroker and developed the ability to give wise investment advice that was a feature of his later career in banking and commerce. He went to France as an officer in the Welsh Guards, was captured during the retreat to Dunkirk and spent the war years as a prisoner in Germany.

His family had long standing connections with Brown, Shipley and, with his investment background, the then partners saw him as an ideal recruit. He joined the firm immediately after the war and, together with his good friend Angus Mackinnon, played a leading part in the development of the bank first into a limited company and then into a public company with a Stock Exchange quotation.

He took over as chairman in 1964 and led the bank for 12 years until his retirement in 1976. His investment background was invaluable and brought him invitations to serve on the boards of leading investment trusts United States Debenture Corporation, of which he was also chairman, and London Scottish American Trust. He also served on the boards of Avon Rubber Company and of Ellerman Lines. Garnett-Orme will be remembered by all who served with him in Brown, Shipley as one of the kindest of men, who gave great encouragement to young and hopeful merchant bankers.

His care for the well-being of all in the firm, and their families, was greatly appreciated and this appreciation was matched by confidence in his total integrity and care for the good name of the bank. He cared too, for its traditions and took endless trouble over the rebuilding of Founders Court, the bank's headquarters, in the years immediately before his retirement. Founders Court today, with its echoes of the bank's long history, is enduring evidence of his concern.

Another great care in his life was his long and close association with St Dunstan's, whose council he joined in 1958. He was a member for 25 years, the last eight as chairman. He became honorary treasurer in 1962 and vice-chairman in 1967. In 1975, following the death of Lord Fraser of Lonsdale, Ion Garnett-Orme succeeded him as chairman. He initiated many improvements in the services St Dunstan's provides for blinded ex-service people. Most of all, with his great experience of the financial world, he steered St Dunstan's safely through a period of extremely high inflation.

His very personal interest in the well-being of the St Dunstaners themselves extended to knowing them and their families individually. He both surpassed and easily lived up to the words in his speech, when taking over as chairman, that he would attempt to carry on the great traditions of unique individual and personal assistance to St Dunstaners which had been initiated by the founder. In this he was very fully supported by his wife, Katharine.

In 1983 his work for St Dunstan's was honoured by his appointment as CBE. Before the end of that year he retired from the chairmanship and became a vice-president.

In 1946 Ion Garnett-Orme married Katharine Clifton Brown and in their long life together they shared many interests, not least among them his enthusiasm for fishing and their creation of a garden at Cheriton that gave them and their friends enormous pleasure over many years.

His wife, Katharine, survives him.

MICHAEL HARDWICK

Michael Hardwick, author, died in a Canterbury hospital on March 4 of cancer aged 66. He was born on September 10, 1924.

WITH his wife, Mollie, an author in her own right, Michael Hardwick formed an astonishingly prolific writing team which is associated in the public mind with the books they created out of popular television series such as *Upstairs, Downstairs*. Besides these "novelisations", as their authors styled them, Michael Hardwick produced a single volume abridgement of Trollope's Palliser novels. He also wrote a series of Sherlock Holmes novels which continued the life and adventures of the great detective, until he was forbidden to do so in 1988 by Dame Jean Conan Doyle, holder of the American copyright on her father's works. He was, like his wife, an authority on Sherlock Holmes and they had a wide range of works on Arthur Conan Doyle's hero to their credit, including *The Sherlock Holmes Companion*, one of their earliest works, published in 1962.

Michael John Drinkrow Hardwick was educated at Leeds Grammar School and after leaving worked for a year, 1942-43, as a reporter on the *Morley Observer* before being called up into the army. From 1943 until 1947 when he was demobilised he served as a grenadier captain in the Indian Army in India and Japan.

He decided to spend his gratuity from the army on seeing some more of the world and in 1948 went to New Zealand where he became head of the national film unit. He stayed in New Zealand until 1952, making government films. Returning to Britain, he might have expected to have attained some reputation from his work in New Zealand, but 12,000 miles proved to be a long way and he was obliged to take work in the BBC drama department as a publicity officer.

This period did, however, see the gestation of some of his subsequent radio scripts on Sherlock Holmes, and his marriage, in 1961, to Mollie Greenhalgh, herself then working in BBC radio drama, signalled the beginning of a prodigious output of books, many produced jointly. From *The Sherlock Holmes Companion* they progressed to *Sherlock Holmes Investigates* (1963), *The Man Who Was Sherlock Holmes* (1964) and a volume of Sherlock Holmes plays. There was also a *Charles Dickens Companion* (1965), *Plays from Dickens* (1970) and *The Bernard Shaw Companion* (1974).

Michael Hardwick's own interests ranged widely over the cultural field and on his own account he published *The Osprey Guide to Gilbert and Sullivan* in 1972 and followed it with Osprey guides to Jane Austen (1973), Oscar Wilde (1973) and Anthony Trollope (1974). Like everything the Hardwicks did, either jointly or singly, these works were characterised by their lack of pretentiousness and provided an accessible introduction to their subjects.

So effective was their collaboration that it would have taken a very astute detective to pronounce on who of the partnership had written what in their joint ventures. Both were prodigiously hard workers, seldom taking a day off. The "novelisations", in particular, were produced at breakneck speed in the wake of each series they fictionalised, with dispatch riders speeding the material, chapter by chapter, from the Hardwicks' home to the printers.

JOHN HOSFORD

John Hosford, former senior surgeon to St Bartholomew's Hospital and surgeon to King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, has died aged 90. He was born on July 24, 1900.

JOHN Percival Hosford came of a remarkable medical family with a strong connection with St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, where his career was to flourish. His father was a medical practitioner in Hornsey. His three brothers qualified in medicine from St Bartholomew's and two cousins and two uncles were also in the medical profession. Hosford went to Highgate School before qualifying and graduating at St Bartholomew's Medical College in 1922.

After two house surgeon appointments and an anatomy demonstratorship at St Bartholomew's he passed the final FRCS and the London MS with gold medal in 1925, and was then able to gain rich experience. Hosford was afterwards to succeed Geoffrey Keynes and Paterson Ross who had been private assistants in the London practice of Sir Berkeley Moynihan (later Lord Moynihan of Leeds); he was one of several well known surgeons Hosford assisted. Already endowed with skilful hands, he was to derive immense surgical advantage from his early mentors.

He was appointed assistant surgeon at St Bartholomew's in 1936 and rapidly built up a highly successful general surgical practice. He was not only an excellent undergraduate and postgraduate lecturer with an easy and unflamboyant style, but was also a conscientious and effective bedside teacher. On the outbreak of the second world war he took charge of one of the St Bartholomew's surgical units at Hill End Hospital, St Albans, under the emergency medical service.

His surgical opinion and skills were in steadily growing demand before, during and after the war when he acquired consultant appointments at places as far apart as Leatherhead, St Albans, Watford and Hitchin. After the war he became full surgeon to St Bartholomew's though his unit did not return to London until 1948. Up to then he had undertaken surgery in a wide field and in the late 1940s general surgeons at most hospitals were still dealing with fractures. Hosford himself had been especially skilled in this work and had published a popular student textbook in 1939. He left later editions to one of his orthopaedic colleagues, for his great expertise in abdominal, breast and thyroid surgery steadily compelled him to relinquish his earlier wide range of practice.

Opposed in principle to the idea of nationalised medicine, he continued to fulfil all his commitments to the NHS and to teaching despite his very busy private practice. Although never enthusiastic about committee work, he played his full part in the affairs of St Bartholomew's, and was a member of the Court of Examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons of England from 1956 to 1960. He also examined for the universities of London, Oxford, Sheffield and Belfast.

Hosford was a man of most equable temperament; a reserved and charming companion; a good listener with a great capacity for absorbing valuable information in the course of conversation, but never wasting a precious moment in idle chatter. He was a discreet and kindly surgical chief, a beautiful technician and most assuredly a doctors' surgeon. In 1959 he startled his colleagues by announcing that he would retire the following year, five years before the normal retiring age. He and his wife moved to Portalegre in Portugal, though at first making annual visits to far distant parts of the world. After 20 years they moved closer to Lisbon before returning to England in 1984. Always lovers of the countryside they were keen horticulturists wherever they lived.

He is survived by his widow, Millicent, and their son and daughter.

JACK MEYER

Bishop Frank West writes:

I ONCE rang up Jack Meyer and asked for a word with him, to be told by his secretary that he was engaged all day but he would be pleased to speak to me between midnight and 2 am from his study and from 2-3 am in his bedroom. He was one of the world's greatest workaholics. It cannot be denied that he was exceedingly ambitious and egocentric. It was difficult to get a word in edgeways with him. I remember walking the length of Glastonbury High Street with him after a confirmation, he pointing out the richer parents as they slithered by in their expensive cars, and hinting at what project he intended to touch them for. But he was no snob. At school he treated all the children alike, irrespective of the incomes of their fathers. It also cannot be denied that he was worldly-wise, but his was the worldly-wisdom of a Robin Hood from which many of the underprivileged benefited.

He never forgot he was the son of a poor country parson (Watton-at-Stone). He treated his girl pupils with an old-world courtesy, always letting them pass before him through a doorway. He was always affectionately known as "Boss".

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy

CAPTAIN: W H Kelly – staff of CINCNAVHOME 14.6.91; J R Smith – Staff of FOST 6.9.91.

COMMANDER: C M Cole – NATO Denmark 16.7.91; R Dalrymple-Smith – MOD Portsdown 6.9.91; A K Dymock – Dryad 27.7.91; T R Harris – Brazen in Cmd 19.7.91; W B Harris MOD London 6.9.91; P J Horstead – Flt Eng Portsmouth 23.8.91; R H Jackson – MOD Portsdown 9.4.91; C D Lean – MOD London 9.4.91; D S Malley – BDS Washington 13.91.91; R L Warne – Portsmouth, NB 30.8.91.

SURGEON COMMANDER: N E Baldock – Alverstoke 12.3.91; P Litchfield – MOD London 26.7.91; J W Turvill – Gibraltar 7.6.91.

Retirement

SURGEON REAR ADMIRAL: R E Snow – 1.6.91.

The Army

MAJOR GENERAL: M T Tennant – to be DRA. 11.3.92.

BRIGADIER: W D Cantley – to be Bde Comd HQ 11 Armd Bde. 18.3.91.

COLONELS: I J Hellberg – to be ACOS HQ BF Cyprus. 11.3.91; M G Ramsey – to be PM HQ RMP UKLF. 11.3.91; A E W Stormer – to MOD. 11.3.91; A A Ward – to be Comdt Veh Dep Ashchurch. 11.3.91; D J Innes – to be ACOS HQ BFHK. 15.3.91.

LIEUTENANT COLONELS: D S Bairnsfather 15/19H – to UKLF. 11.3.91; A A A Beattie QUEENS – to be CO 3 QUEENS. 11.3.91; M D Bowles REME – to be CO Trg Bn & Dep REME. 11.3.91; T W Burls PARA – to be CO 3 PARA. 11.3.91; C S Harcourt-Smith LG – to be Svc Attache Stockholm. 11.3.91; J Richards RA – to MOD. 11.3.91; W F Shuttlewood 2GR – to be CO 1/2R. 11.3.91; N A Collett 6GR – to be CO 6GR. 15.3.91; N A Leadbetter REME – to HQ 1(BR) Corps. 11.3.91; R C Leigh RMP – to HQ 1(BR) Corps. 11.3.91.

Retirement

COLONEL: R Osborne, late RTR. 14.3.91.

Royal Air Force

GROUP CAPTAIN: A F Short – to MOD RAF PMC Innsworth; D Grant – to MOD (AFD); C J Lampard – to A&AEE Boscombe Down.

WING COMMANDER: P R Thomas – to RAF Abingdon; L V Palmer – to RAF Biggin Hill; K D Corrans – to RAF Rheindahlen; R J Cassidy – to MOD CVE; C F W Felger – to Nairobi; P C Goodman – to MOD CVE.

Service of thanksgiving

Mr Stewart Morris

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Mr Brian Southcott and the Princess Royal by Brigadier Robin Duchesne at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Stewart Morris held yesterday at St Paul's, Knightsbridge. The Rev Christopher Courtauld officiated.

Mrs Sarah Campbell-Woodward read an extract from Comradeship by Mr E.G. Martin and Mr John Roome, Commodore of the Royal Yacht Squadron, read the lesson. Mr Ian Butler gave an address. Among others present were:

Mrs Julia Styrn, Mr John Vernon (Royal Thames Yacht Club), Mr Jonathan Janson (International Yacht Racing Union), Mr Francis Elkin (Royal Yachting Association), Mr Peter Dunn (Oxford and Cambridge Sailing Society) and Mr Roger Morris (Itchenor Sailing Club).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.A. Bing
and Miss S.F. Greenwood
The engagement is announced between Robert, second son of Commander Peter and the Hon Mrs Bing, of Montrose, Angus, and Sarah, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Laurence Greenwood, of Coldwaltham, Sussex.

Mr A.L. Carrington
and Miss C.G.R. Bertie
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Captain and Mrs Norman Carrington, of Saxonmead, Haywards Heath, Sussex, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peregrine Bertie, of Frilsham Manor, Hermitage, Berkshire.

Mr W.J.R. Gething
and Miss N.J.T. Morton
The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr Brian Gething and the late Mrs Sigrid Gething, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Morton, of New York.

Mr C.A.B. Gregory
and Miss J.C. McNeill
The engagement is announced between Clive, younger son of Mr and Mrs R.W. Gregory, of South Molton, North Devon, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.C. McNeill, of Coombe Bissett, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr S.J. Greenwood
and Miss C.L. Cavenett
The engagement is announced between Simon James, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Greenwood, of Rayleigh, Essex, and Clare Louise, daughter of Professor and Mrs. Brian Cavenett, of Edinburgh.

Lieutenant J.D. Hudson, RM
and Miss M.J. Stanbridge
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, eldest son of Mr Richard Hudson and the late Mrs Averil Hudson, of Limpsfield, Surrey, and Michaela, eldest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Stanbridge, retd, and Mrs Stanbridge, of Winchester, Hampshire.

Mr M.R. Lingens
and Miss R.M. Fay
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Dr F.O. Lingens and Karin Weber, of Bad Wildungen, Germany, and Rachel, younger daughter of Charles Fay, of Chorleywood, Buckinghamshire, and the late Patricia Fay, OBE.

Mr A.P.R. Lufkin
and Miss P.C. Burrough
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs F.R. Lufkin, of Vaud, Switzerland, and Philomena, daughter of Mr S.J. Burrough, of Mixbury, Northamptonshire, and Mrs R. Stephens, of Islington, London.

Dr M.D. McCaldin
and Miss G.A. Le Marchant
The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of Dr and Mrs John McCaldin, of Down House, Anerley, Natal, and Geva, daughter of Lady Le Marchant, and the late Sir Spencer Le Marchant, of The Saltings, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight.

Mr P.G.C. Mallinson
and Signorina E. Marzetti Paoli
The engagement is announced between Peter, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Robin Mallinson, of Ewshot, Farnham, Surrey, and Elisabetta, younger daughter of Conte and Contessa Mino Marzetti Paoli, of Roccantica, Rome.

Mr D.A. Martin
and Miss K.A. Mackie
The engagement is announced between David, second son of Major A. Martin, MBE, and Mrs Martin, of Herne Bay, Kent, and Katherine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs B.S. Mackie, Balquhindachy, Methlick, Aberdeenshire.

Mr R.D. Patel
and Miss N.J. Patel
The engagement is announced between Roy, youngest son of Mrs M.D. Patel, of Buckhurst Hill, Essex, and of the late Mr D.C. Patel, and Nita, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.R. Patel, of Ewell, Surrey.

Mr D.R.J. Reid
and Miss M. Carver
The engagement is announced between Douglas, elder son of Mr and Mrs William Reid, of Alfold, Surrey, and Marianne, elder daughter of Mr Anthony Carver, of Lapworth, Warwickshire, and Mrs M. Delingpole, of Blackwell, Worcestershire.

Mr R.A. Wallace
and Miss J.M. McDermont
The engagement is announced between Richard Wallace, of Islington, London, son of Joy and Tony Wallace, of Mill Green, Essex, and Jennie McDermont, of Hampstead, London, younger daughter of June and Andy McDermont, of Stirling, Stirlingshire.

Reduce waste at work, urges Prince

By JOHN YOUNG

STAFF training schemes should include attention to good environmental practices, the Prince of Wales said yesterday. Employees should be made aware of the need to conserve energy, reduce waste and minimise pollution.

Prince Charles was speaking in London at the launch of the 1991 National Training Awards, which are supported by *The Times*. The awards were described by Robert Jackson, employment minister, as the most prestigious for training within the United Kingdom.

The scheme, now in its fifth year, has hitherto been confined to companies, but this year there is a new category of award for individuals. Employers will be able to nominate anyone from board level to shop floor who they think has demonstrated a particular personal commitment to developing his or her own potential.

Details and entry forms can be obtained by telephoning 0800 900 930.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Johann Strauss (the Elder), Vienna, 1804; Isabella Beeton, author of The Book of Household Management, London, 1836; Sir Lauder Brunton, physician, Roxburgh, 1844; Paul Ehrlich, biochemist, Strohlen, Silesia (Strezelin, Poland), 1854; Albert Einstein, physicist, Nobel laureate 1921, Ulm, Germany, 1879.

DEATHS: John Byng, admiral, executed for failing to relieve Minorca, Portsmouth, 1757; Friedrich Klopstock, poet, Hamburg, 1803; John Jervis, Earl of St Vincent, admiral of the fleet, 1823; Karl Marx, London, 1883; George Eastman, pioneer of photography, Rochester, New York, 1932; Nikolai Bukharin, journalist and politician, executed, Moscow, 1938; Busby Berkeley, choreographer, California, 1976; Sir Huw Wheldon, broadcaster, 1986; Zita, former empress of Austria, 1989.

The New English Bible (New Testament) was published; the *Old Testament* on the 16th, 1961.

Memorial service

Lord Seebohm

THE Duchess of Kent was represented by Sir Roy Griffiths, President of Age Concern, at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Seebohm held yesterday at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey.

Canon Donald Gray officiated and Mr Peter Leslie, Deputy Chairman of Barclays Bank and Chairman of the Commonwealth Development Corporation, read the lesson. Mr Lewis Waddilove read an extract from the Seebohm Report (Report of the Committee on Local Authority and Allied Personal Social Services, 1968). Baroness Serota gave an address. Miss Laura Seebohm, granddaughter, played Jules Massenet's *Meditation* (from *Thaïs*) on the violin. The Lord Chancellor attended and the Bishop of London was represented by Dom Mark Gibson, OSB. Among those present were:

The Hon Richard and Mrs Seebohm (son and daughter-in-law), the Hon Mrs Walter Lippincott (daughter), Mr and the Hon Mrs Terence de Vere White (son-in-law and daughter), Miss Sophie Seebohm, Miss Charlotte Seebohm, Miss Henrietta Seebohm, Sophie Lippincott, Hugh Lippincott, Dr and Mrs Paul Glendinning, Mr Hugo Glendinning, Mr Matthew Glendinning and Mr Simon Glendinning (grandchildren), the Dowager Countess of Cranbrook (sister), Mr John Lyall (step-brother), Mrs Derrick Seebohm (sister-in-law), Commander and Mrs Eric Back and Mr and Mrs Tony Parsons (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law), Mrs Douglas Hill (sister-in-law), the Earl and Countess of Cranbrook, Lord Medway, Lady Juliet Simpson, Lady Christina Letanka, the Hon Hugh and Mrs Gathorne-Hardy, Mr Henry Seebohm, Miss Philippa Seebohm, Miss Patience Seebohm, Mr E H Seebohm, Mr David Hurst, Mrs Georgina Battiscombe, Mrs Christopher Harris, Mr David Brooks, Mrs Shirley Storry, Mr Gerald Parsons, Mr Brian Parsons, Mr Stephan Hopkinson.

The Earl of Selkirk, QC, the Earl of Shannon, Viscount Eccles, CH, and Viscountess Eccles, Viscount Knutsford, Viscount Tenby, Viscount Caldecote, Baroness White, Lord O'Brien of Lothbury, Lord Cullen of Ashbourne, Lord Taylor of Gryfe, Lord Thorneycroft, CH, and Lady Thorneycroft, Baroness Lockwood, Baroness David, Lord Hunter of Newington, Lord Walton of Detchant, Baroness Darcy de Knayth, Lord Greenhill of Harrow, Lady Kinloss, Lord Congleton, Lord Richardson, Lord McFadzean, Lord Sherfield, Lord Pym, Lord Boyd-Carpenter, Lord Renton, QC, Lord Glenarthur, Lord Peyton of Yeovil, Lord Tordoff, Lord Roll of Ipsden.

Baroness Masham of Ilton, Lord Harris of High Cross, Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge, Lord Allen of Abbeydale, Baroness Robson of Kiddington, Lord Rochester, Lord and Lady Fraser of Kilmorack, Baroness Hylton-Foster, Baroness Faithfull, Lord Bancroft, Lord Killearn, Lord and Lady Henderson of Brompton, Lord Airedale, Lord Shaughnessy, Lord Brain, Lord Kearton, Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC, Lord Chorley (British Council) and Lady Chorley, Lord Brightman, Lord Terrington, Lord Pitt of Hampstead, Baroness Trumpington, Lord Moyne, Lord Carr of Hadley, Baroness Hooper, Lord Cobbold, Baroness Strange.

The Hon Lady Goodhart (principal, Queen's College, London), Sir Ashley Ponsonby, Sir John Nicholson, Sir Anthony Touche, Sir Thomas and Lady Lucas, Sir Colin Campbell, Sir Peter Graham, Sir John and Lady Prideaux, Lady Bevan, Sir Seymour Egerton, Sir Richard Young, Sir Humphrey Prideaux, Lady Compton Miller, Sir Alexander and Lady Johnston, Lady de Bunsen, Lady Greengross, Lady French, Sir Francis Loyd, Sir Francis and Lady Sandilands, Sir Reay and Lady Geddes.

Sir John Wilton, Sir Paul Bryan, Sir Peter Tennant, Sir John Thomson, Sir Andrew Carnwath, Dame Felicity Peake, Sir John Cuckney, Mr David Marlow and Mr Neil M Williamson (3i Group), Sir Donald Barron, Sir George and Lady Bishop, Sir Roderick Barclay, Sir Geoffrey Wilson, Sir William Utting, Sir Anthony Tuke, Mr Ellis Birk and Baroness Birk.

Mr J N D Bettley (Barclays International Pensioners Club), Mr Alan Farnsworth (Barclays Bank, Hitchin), Mr Eric Glover (Chartered Institute of Bankers), Mr Geoffrey Seligman (S G Warburg and Company) and Mrs Seligman, Mr Leonard J Walton (Riggs A P Bank), Mr Philip Chappell (Association of Investment Trust Companies), Mr H U A Lambert (Sun Alliance Insurance Group) and Mrs Lambert, Mr M D A Smith (Miles Emblin Company), Mrs Christine Emblin (President's Club), Mr David Whitby (Gillet Brothers), Mr E W Phillips (Friends Provident Life Office), Mr Damon de Laszlo (Economic Research Council), Mr Robin Moser (Alexander's Discount).

Mr Peter Bottomley, MP, and Mrs Virginia Bottomley (Minister for Health), Mr M A J Wheeler-Booth (Clerk of the Parliaments), Mr Robin Guthrie (Chief Charity Commissioner), Mr J H Galbraith (Volunteer Centre UK), Mr Peter Barclay (National Institute for Social Work) and Mrs Barclay with Mr Trevor Owen, Mr David Jones (British Association of Social Workers), Professor David Piachaud (representing the Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science), Miss Priscilla Young (Family Service Units), Mr Tom White (National Children's Home), Mr Michael Cole (Tuckerman's), Mr John Howell (Overseas Development Institute), Mr Martin Kenyon (Overseas Students' Trust), Professor Kenneth Robinson (Royal African Society) with Professor R J Harrison-Church, Mr George Bennett (Africa Centre).

Mr Simon Webley (British North America Committee), Mr David Elyan (Friends of Royal Watercolour Society), Miss June Stubbs (Thorney Island Society), Mr Charles Green (Policy Studies Institute), Mr Richard Sawyer (St Thomas' Hospital Special Trustees), Mr Kenneth Dibben (representing the chairman, Marsham Court Management Company), Mr Robin Wendt (representing the chairman, Association of County Councils), Mr Stephen Carden (London House for Overseas Graduates), Professor Colin Pritchard (Southampton University), Mr Michael Bender (Bankside Gallery), Mrs M Thomson and Miss M Clive (1st/9th Anti-Aircraft Group), Mr Ian Hall (Bloomsbury Society).

Mrs Hilary Magnus, Professor Nigel Glendinning, Mr Richard Baynes, Miss Caroline Magnus, Mr L Magnus, Mr Jerry Wiggin, MP, Mr Tony Hall, Mr David Hobson, Mr and Mrs Julian Watson, Mr Billy Carbutt, Mr G J Ellerton, Mr Gerald F Bowden, MP, Mr and Mrs Philip Cole, Mr Henry Eaton, Miss Joan Cooper, Mr and Mrs David Jones, Mrs Peter Leslie, Mr Tam Dalyell, MP, Miss Jean Rowntree, Miss Joan Barnard, Mr Richard Best, Mrs Louise Botting, Mr Robert Fell, Mr Sidney Colt, Mr Roy Gazzard, Mrs E Norman-Butler, Mr and Mrs O E Wilde, Mr and Mrs G Gayder, Mr and Mrs Robin Hewlett-Jones, Mr Peter de Bunsen, Mr [illegible] Macpherson, Mr Harry Eckstein, Mr and Mrs D Mason, Mr P Cummins, Mr J Foulds, Mr G B Stone, Mr and Mrs R Pelly, Mr and Mrs H V Hodson, Mr and Mrs Michael Brown and members of staff from Sutton Manor Nursing Home and Mews.

It is your fathers' God who helps you, the Almighty God who blesses you with blessings of rain from above and of deep waters from beneath the ground.
Genesis 49 : 25 G.N.B

BIRTHS

ARBISMAN - On March 11th, at The Portland Hospital, to Isabel (née Katz) and Laurie, a wonderful daughter, Chloe Tara.

BACHRACH - On February 19th at the Humana Hospital Wellington, to Ana Lorena and Ernest, a son, Christian.

COHEN - On March 11th, to Caroline (née Salmon) and Simon, a son, Daniel Jack.

COLES - On March 12th at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, to Fiona and Jonathan, a son, Fergus John Purseal, a brother for Benjamin.

COTTON - On March 6th, to Fiona (née Asher) and Tim, a son, Cosmo Joseph, a brother for Thomas.

COTTON - On March 12th, to Chris and Sarita (née Mussell), a beautiful daughter, Emily Jane.

CRANE - On March 10th, at Llandough Hospital, to Timothy and Lisa (née Rowles), a son, Thomas John.

DARCH - On March 7th, to Sarah (née Moger) and Brian, a daughter, Emma Sarah Charlotte, a sister for Catharine.

DUDHIA - On March 10th 1991, to Lupita (née Gallardo) and Feizal, a son, Shamil. "The eldest of the eldest of the eldest."

FAWCETT - On February 25th, at St Thomas' Hospital, to Belinda (née Harum) and John, a daughter, Olivia, a sister for Ben.

FISKEN - On March 10th, at The Portland Hospital, to Margaret-Ann (née Clarke) and Gordon, a son, Alexander Clarke.

GREEN - On March 6th 1991, to Sally (née Mortimer) and Julian, a wonderful son, Benjamin Samuel Oliver.

HALLEWELL - On March 6th 1991, in Thonon-Les Bains, France, to Joanna (née Simon) and Peter, a son, George Simon, a brother for Rachael.

KAYE - On March 12th, to Pippy (née Checketts) and Mark, a daughter, Rebecca Leila, a sister to Hannah and Patrick.

KING - On March 10th, at Harrogate, to Eleanor (née Hamilton) and Tom, a daughter, Frances Eleanor Mary, a sister for Philippa, Margaret and Harriet.

MAUGHAN - On March 12th, to Punch and Jamie, a son, Edward (Ned) James Bradley.

MITCHISON - On March 12th, to Wendy (née Tugwell) and Paul, a daughter, Francesca Elizabeth, a sister for Hugh and Olivia.

PARKHOUSE - On March 9th, at The Portland Hospital, to Helen (née Fitzmaurice) and Nicholas, a daughter, Emma.

PEARSON - On March 13th, at The Portland Hospital, to Marina (née Cordle) and Michael, a daughter (Catrina Sophie Lavinia).

POPIOLEK - On March 8th, at home, to Hilary (née Knight) and Anton, a son, Thomas Anton, a brother for Max.

PRIOR - On Monday March 11th, to Camilla (née Benson) and Jeremy, a son, Oliver James Leathes.

RUTHERFORD-JONES - On March 10th, to Sarah (née McNish) and David, a daughter, Alice, a sister for George.

SAVAGE - On March 9th 1991, to Caroline and Sandy, a daughter, Katharine Fenella MacEwan, a sister for Tabitha.

SHOOK - On March 11th, at The Portland Hospital, to Susannah (née Dixon) and John, a daughter, Laura Janine.

THOMAS - On March 1st 1991, to Sue and Clive, a son, Benedict James Russell, a brother for Guy and Ross.

THORP - On March 11th 1991, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Antonia (née Manley) and Nick, a daughter, Ophelia.

WOODMAN - see Thomas.

DEATHS

ANDREWS - On March 12th 1991, peacefully in Kingston Hospital, Lionel Frank, in his 92nd year, husband of the late Hilda Andrews, much loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at St Martin's Parish Church, Epsom, on Wednesday March 20th at 2.15 pm. Flowers to Longhurst, Pound Lane, Epsom.

BARCLAY - On March 12th 1991, Joanna (née Joan Needham), suddenly at home, aged 75. Cremation on March 15th. Close friends and family only. No flowers or letters please but donations welcome for the Camphill Community Trust, East Anglia, c/o Ducker & Son Ltd., 21 White Hart Street, Aylsham, Norfolk.

BEAUCHAMP - On March 10th, Eva Mary, aged 90 years, widow of David Martin. Funeral and Service of Thanksgiving at Bearsted Methodist Church, Tuesday March 19th at 10.45 am. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, for Bearsted Methodist Church to D.W. Freeman, 79 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent.

BOSWELL - On March 9th 1991, peacefully at home in Langham, Holt, in her 90th year, Muriel Alexandra, youngest daughter of the late Samuel and Alice Boswell of Norwich. Funeral at St Faith's Crematorium, Norwich, on Tuesday March 19th at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only to S.T. Sutton, Burnt Street, Wells. Donations, if desired, to Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research, 41 Eagle Street, WC1R 4AR.

BROUGH - On March 9th 1991, John Adrian, much loved husband, father and grandfather, of Midhurst, Sussex, formerly of India and Malaysia. Cremation private. Thanksgiving at St James' Church, Selham, near Midhurst, Tuesday March 19th at 2.30 pm. No flowers, donations if desired to British Diabetic Association, 10 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0BL.

COHEN - On March 12th, peacefully, Simon Cohen, in his 101st year. Ret'd Accountant, formerly of Cricklewood, London. Deeply mourned by his son Philip, daughter-in-law Dorrit and granddaughter Elizabeth.

de FRISCHING - On March 8th, in a skiing accident, Oliver, much loved son of Marc and Alexandra, dear grandson of Ann of 12A Gretton Court, Girton, Cambridge. Funeral at the Anglican Church in Geneva on March 14th.

GRAHAM - On March 10th 1991, peacefully, Marygold 'Meg' (née Austin), dearly loved wife of John and mother of Andrew, George and Christian. Funeral at All Saints Church, Spetisbury, on Tuesday March 19th at 3 pm, followed by private cremation. All Saints is small and friends from further afield may prefer to attend a service of thanksgiving in Winchester Cathedral on Friday May 3rd at 3 pm. No flowers, nor letters please, but deep thanks for the letters and prayers during the last ten weeks of her life. Donations, if desired, to the Basingstoke and North Hampshire Medical Trust, Basingstoke Hospital, RG24 9NA.

HORNBY - On March 12th, in Southampton General Hospital, Margaret Ellinor (Bunny), formerly of Liverpool. Much loved sister, aunt and great-aunt. Cremation at Bournemouth on Tuesday March 19th at 11.45 am. Family flowers only please.

LANGDON - On March 12th, after a short illness, Michael, C.B.E., aged 70, Opera Singer. Beloved husband of Vera and father of Diane and Christine. Funeral private. Family flowers only please, donations, if desired, to Musicians Benevolent Fund, 16 Ogle Street, London W1T 7LG. Memorial Service in London to be arranged later.

MALCOLM - On March 12th, peacefully at The Grange, Goring-on-Thames, Kenneth Just, in his 93rd year. Funeral service at Wallingford Parish Church on Tuesday March 19th at 2.30 pm. Flowers to R & H Barker, Didcot, Berks.

McPHERSON - On March 10th, peacefully at home, Dr. Ian McPherson, much loved brother of Margot and uncle to Jane and Hamish (deceased). Funeral Service at Woking Crematorium on Wednesday March 20th at 11.30 am. Flowers to Lines Bannister and Company, 69 High Street, Ascot.

MOTT - On March 12th, peacefully in hospital after a short illness, Margaret Berger, born Denver, Colorado, April 1st 1902. Sculptor and much loved mother of Michael, John and Anthony. Thanksgiving Service at Mortlake Crematorium, 4.30 pm, Tuesday March 19th, followed by Memorial Service in Cornwall at a later date. Family flowers only. Donations, if wished, to Amnesty International.

NORMAN - On March 12th 1991, Valerian Henry Fortescue, aged 71 years, of Surbiton. Funeral Service will take place on Wednesday March 20th at Kingston Crematorium at 1 pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Kingston Intensive Care Unit, Kingston Hospital, Surrey.

O'BEIRNE - On March 11th, peacefully in hospital, Ivanka (née Tupanjanin). Dearly loved wife of C.B. O'Beirne Q.C., mother of Michael and Nicolette and grandmother of Hubert. Funeral Service at the Church of the Holy Name, Arbrook Lane, Esher, 10 am, Monday March 18th.

SIVEWRIGHT - On March 12th, in hospital in Hartlepool, Mildred Mary (Molly), in her 105th year. Dearly loved daughter of the late George William and Lydia Sivewright. Funeral Service at The Abbey Church of St Hilda, The Headland, Monday 12.15 pm prior to cremation. Floral tributes if so desired to Mason & Martin Funeral Home, Park Rd., Hartlepool.

STRACHAN - On Friday March 8th, Ralph Arthur Frederick, aged 61, much loved and devoted son of Lillian Strachan. Funeral to be held at Golders Green Crematorium on Friday March 15th at 4.20 pm. Donations to Cancer Relief.

STRANGER-JONES - On Saturday March 9th 1991, suddenly at home, Iris Christine Stranger-Jones (née Truscott). Deeply loved mother of Susan and Anthony, mother-in-law of Kazumi and Ralph and grandmother of Amiko, Yukiko and David. Funeral Service at St John's Wood Church on Tuesday March 19th 1991 at 10.30 am. No flowers please. Donations to Royal Academy of Dancing, 43 Vicarage Crescent, London SW11 3LT.

TOWER - On March 12th, peacefully in Winchester, Commander Bertie, much loved husband of the late Judy, father of Ian and Fiona Mollie and grandfather of Lizzie and Sarah. Funeral at All Saints, East Stratton, 12.30 pm, Monday March 18th. Family flowers only. Donations gratefully received by PCC, St James's, Woodmancott, c/o Jno Steel & Son Ltd., Chesil House, Winchester.

TRUSCOTT - see Stranger-Jones.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

GLINSMAN - Reuben Asher ("Chick"). Darling Chick, beloved husband and father, the kindest most gentle person we ever knew. We will love and miss him forever. Deeply mourned by wife Pamela, children Nicholas, Adam and Amanda, Mai Gilbert, relatives and friends.

STEEN - In constant memory of Stephen, from Jacqueline, Diana and Anthony and six adult grandchildren.

WILSON, Wilfrid G. Died 14.3.84. In grateful memory of a fine colleague and mentor in public service tradition, senior administrator LCC/GLC, staff-sergeant (HO) REME, outstanding ringer (Middlesex Guild) and kind friend. Bill.

BIRTHDAYS

FISHER-McALLUM: TAYLOR Alice Cassandra, 1 year old today. You're so special. I want to tell the world. Love Mama

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MARCH 14 ON THIS DAY 1879

Arthur William Patrick Albert, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, was the third son and seventh child, of nine, of Queen Victoria. He is said to have been the favourite of the queen.

MARRIAGE OF THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT

A perfectly fortunate and successful ceremony celebrated the marriage yesterday of the third son of the Queen and the third daughter of Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia. The beautiful spring weather, the quaint old town decked out with bravery, the magnificent architecture of the Castle and ceremonial of the Court, and the public rejoicings, conspired to give this union as bright and happy auguries as any bride's could be that the sun has shone on.

Windsor was filled with a marvellously great assemblage of people. Before the gates of the lower ward, there was a perfect sea of heads. It was impossible to follow any of the processions. But it was the most orderly crowd of its size that we have ever seen; not one *contretemps* had been reported up to nightfall. The majority of the sight-seers were of the class that flocks to a flower show or a fashionable bazaar, and behaved with unwonted forbearance and good humour.

The fullest idea of the vast assemblage was to be gained at 4 o'clock, when the alleys of the Long Walk as far as the eye could reach were thronged with black masses of human beings waiting to see the Duke and Duchess of Connaught drive to Claremont. The wedding was described as a private wedding, but, in more senses than one, Windsor Castle stands on a hill that cannot be hid; and a diplomatist who has seen the Courts of all the great States said, at the close of the ceremony in St George's Chapel yesterday, that he had seen nothing so splendid in any of the Empires of the Continent.

All the morning Windsor had been musical with church-bells and resonant with the strains of military bands. When the special train arrived with the Queen's invited guests, at 10 minutes past 11, the town was already full. The visitors had driven to Paddington under banners waving in many of the streets at the end of London, and the train had received from men ploughing in the fields, from women huddled together at windows, and school-children drawn up on the platforms, plaudits which were less, due perhaps to the popularity of the eminent statesman the train conveyed, than to the fact that it formed a part of the Royal pageant which, what ever may be the reasons — and they are not hard to seek — so profoundly affected the hearts of the nation.

The coming of the Queen was announced by the cheers of the people and the trumpeters blew their loudest. The Queen's carriage and pair, in which Princess Beatrice and Prince Albert Victor of Wales accompanied Her Majesty, was attended by a field officer's escort of the Royal Horse Guards, and preceded by carriages containing her pages of honour and Lords in Waiting and the great officers, as mentioned in our full list published yesterday of the arrangements for the carriage processions. Other officers awaited Her Majesty at the chapel and preceded her up the nave.

There was no long time to wait. The bride came to the gate. The bridesmaids sallied from their chapel at the door to meet her, and, as if all had been most carefully rehearsed, they ranged themselves behind, and the procession formed at once.

When the Princess reached the dais her bridegroom took her bouquet, which he handed to one of the bridesmaids, and the couple knelt before the altar. The impressive ceremony was then commenced by his Grace, the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Psalms were sung by the choir; a stringed band assisted the organ. The "I will" of the Duke of Connaught in answer to the question of the Primate, "Wilt though have this woman to be thy wedded wife?" was heard distinctly throughout the chapel. The bride made her answers in a lower tone.

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CHELSEA SW10 Person urgently req to share spacious lux 2 bed flat. All mod cons, own room £107pw. Nr tube. 071-351 7806 from 7pm.

CHISWICK Lovely dble room. River views, from 14 April £325pcm inc. Tel Sara H:081-995 3498, W:081-332 1944.

CLAPHAM SOUTH SW11. Large comfortable single room in newly modernised house with cleaner. £75 pw incl except phone. 071-924 1728 (day) or 071-924 1817 (eves).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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FLATSHARE

CLAPHAM SOUTH Professional woman. O/r. Pretty new flat. Sunny courtyard. 1 minute tube. £80pw + bills + deposit. Telephone: 081-673 4291.

DOCKLANDS Single room, own shower. Share 1 other. £85 pw. Tel: 071-231 6243.

EAST PUTNEY Tube 9 mins. Wands p/tax. Bright, quiet, dble rm. in big beaut hse. Gdn. Antiques, cat. Cleaner & all mod cons. Avail now. Fem pref. £65 pw. incl. Tel: 081-874 4233.

E14. Lux flat, views Thames + Greenwich, 1 min Island Gardens DLR, O/bath, all cleaning and linen. Mon-Fri £100 pw. Prof N/S. Tel 071-405 8631

FLATMATES. London's foremost (Est 1970) Professional flat sharing service. 071-589 5491

FULHAM Prof male for furnished room in shared Victorian house close to tube. £70 pw plus bills. 071 3868030.

FULHAM Prof M/F. N/S. to share 2 bed flat, all mod cons. £70 pw + bills. 071-736 9473 E

GOLDERS GREEN Pretty rm in superb lux hse for n/s prof f 25+. £71 pw. 081-455 3785

HOUSE "Share" NW3. Flask Walk. 2 females (professionals 20/30's). Jenni 071 4832188.

ISLINGTON (F) Lge rm all mod cons, garden, good communications £85pw Tel: 071 359 6834

LUXURY block near Hyde Park. Unusual arrangement. Lady Executive offered full use of apartment with own room and bathroom by the owners who spend much time abroad. Available immediately. £125 pw. Tel: (071) 723 3162.

MATURE professional person to share luxury flat W1. £300 pcm Tel: 071 499 6821

MUSWELL HILL area. Room for a female non-smoker in friendly house. 5 mins walk from Piccadilly Line Tube. £250-300 pcm. 081-889 2852

PEMBRIDGE PL. Prof F to sh F 29, sun spac penthse. All mod cons. £390pcm 071-229 0261.

PERSON/S Wanted to share beautifully converted barn in Wye Valley. Full time £40pw Part time £10pw. 0600 860858

SHEPHERDS BUSH, single room in garden flat, £75 pw inc, phone extra. Non smokers only. Tel: 081 743 1409.

SOUTHFIELDS SW18. Prof m/f share lux house. 3 mins tube. £200 pcm incl. 081-874 6883 days or 081-785 9820 eves.

TOOTING Broadway. 3 prof plu m/f share newly decorated four bed house/ garden. £260 per month.p.p Day 071 2428613 (ext 126) or 081 7672303 e

TUNBRIDGE WELLS large room to let in luxury flat in centre of Tunbridge Wells. Own bathroom and cooking facilities. Professional non smoker preferred. £70 pw. 0892 545559.

W.3. Prof. Person. N/S to share lovely hse. 5 Mins Pic.Line. £68 p.w. Plus bills: 081 992 3671

WANDSWORTH Prof. M/F Db. Bedrm. Own bath in large hse. £85 p.w.TEL(D) 071 831 7395

W HAMPSTEAD. Prof n/s F. single room. TV, video. Answer/ entry/ pay phone. Nr shops/ transport. £60 pw incl. Tel: 071-794 8759.

WIMBLEDON dbl rm in beautiful lux hse. F N/S, all mod cons, gdn, pay phone. BR 8 mins. £85 pw incl. 081-543 7787

RENTALS

A.M.A. INTERNATIONAL Have a selection of luxury flats for short/long lets Mayfair, Marble Arch, Hyde Park 071 724 4844

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ABOUT TOWN Urgently need 3/4 bed unfurn hse. W8/11/2, SW7/5. 071 221 0111

ACCOMMODATION always req'd in Central London. L/lords and tenants contact Flatlink for a quality service 071-287 4011.

ACCOMMODATION Urgently req for City institutions. Call us with your properties to let. Sebastian Estates 071 381 4998

ALLEN BATES & CO have a selection of furnished flats. 1 bedroom upwards in Central London area. Available for lets of 1 week plus. From £250 pw plus. 071-486 6666.

AMERICAN Bank urgently require luxury flats/houses for [illegible] Park and Notting Hill Gate areas. Foxtons 071-221 3534

BAKER ST - Off - Studio flat. Very comfortably furnished and fitted, including CH. Microwave. Wash/dryer. Ideal pied-à-terre for business/ professional person. £520 pcm. Ring: 071-402 7801.

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BELGRAVIA Short let on Eaton Sq.. lux period 2 bed flat, pvt gdn, available 2 - 3 months on 21st March. Refs req. £295 pw Tel: 071 373 6407

BELGRAVIA Best address, 3 beds, din. sit, 2 bath, acc terrace. 3-6 mths plus. £1000/wk. 071 235 1048. Fax 730 3267.

CAMDEN/Islington. spacious furn upper quiet mais. 2 bed, 2 recep, CH, F/F kit, big bathrm, £185 pw. Refs req'd 071-240 3132 (O) or 071-609 5100 (H)

CHELSEA, Westminster Pimlico and central London. Luxury flats available on long or short lets from £120 - £1,000 pw. Call Cootes 071-828 8251.

CHELSEA superb flat available now. 2 beds, recep, kit & bath £245 pw. 071 376 2866 T

CHELSEA SW3. Superb, v. lux studio flat ff kit nr tube. Bargain £145 pw inc. 071 381 4998 t.

CHELSEA SW3. Superb, bright, v lux 1 dbl bed flat, ff kit. Bargain £ 200pw. 071-381 4998t

CHISWICK. Superb, bright, lux 1 dbl bed flat, ff kit, nr tube. barg £150 pw 071-381 4998t

CLAPHAM COMMON Northside, just off. Newly converted light and airy 2 bed luxury flat. All mod cons. fully furn. GCH. £170 pw. Tel: (0960) 33572 after 6pm.

CLAPHAM. Superb, bright, lux. 2 bed flat, ff kit, gdn, nr tube. Brgn £160 pw. 071-381 4998 t

COVENT GARDEN. Excellent location. 1 large dbl bed. Recep/dining. F/f kit, w/d machine. Avail for immediate occup. Non-company. £225 pw and £240 pw (Brand new). All enquiries Goddard & Smith 071-930 7321

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EARLSFIELD. Superb, v lux. 2 bed cottage. Beautiful gdn, must view. £165 pw. 071-381 4998 t

EUROPEAN & American Bankers & Diplomats urgently require luxury flats & houses in Belgravia, Knightsbridge, Chelsea & Pimlico. Contact Keith Cardale Groves, 071-730 6191

FULHAM Charm sm 1 bed flat, avail now, newly dec. £150pw. 071-584 3507, 071-937 4676.

FW GAPP (Management Services) Ltd Require properties in central, south & west London areas for waiting applicants. Tel: 071-243 0964.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ISLINGTON Garden flat nr Victoria line: double bedroom, sitting room, C/H, TV, W/Machine. Private parking £155pw 071-609 6702.

KENSINGTON W8. studio flat with style, lge room, bed/ gallery, hall, K & B, CH. £180 pw. (0722) 72703

KENSINGTON Delightful 1 bedroom flat in garden square. £225 pw. 071 3733433.

KENSINGTON Lux 2 bed flats, recep, kit, bath, wc. £250pw. 071 938 1068 Mallon Estates

LAKEVIEW COURT, Victoria. 2 bed apartment, 1 dble 1 single on 9th floor. F/F kit. Avail L/Let. £225 pw. All enquiries Goddard & Smith 071-930 7321

MARBLE ARCH, Mayfair, Hyde Park. Finest long & short lets. friendly service & advice. Globe Aparts 071-935 9512 (est 1980)

MARYLEBONE W1. Superb, lge lux 2 dbl bed flat 2 bath. Bargain. £280 pw. 071-381 4998 t

MORTLAKE Spacious split level flat directly on river in 16th century farmhouse. Microwave, washer drier, video, CH, Satellite t.v. 2 dble beds. Ref Dep. £220 p.w. 081 878 1455

MULTI-NATIONAL Corporate companies require quality furn/unfurnished properties in Fulham/Parsons Green areas. Foxtons 071-381 8020.

NOTTING HILL W11. Bright luxury 1 bed sc flat. Close transport £158pw 081 969 6058.

NW2 Willesden Green. Attractive spacious furn s/c flat. 2 beds, 1 sitting room K & B, entryphone, CH. Refs essential. £600 pcm excl. Tel: 071-486 1908.

PUTNEY Superb v lux 4 bed house, 2 bath, ff kit, lge gdn, nr tube. £300 pw. 071-381 4998t

REGENTS PARK 1 bed luxury flat. Perfect condition. Brand new furniture. Excellent location 1 min tube. Very secure - lift & porter. £160 pw. 375-8077 (day). 435-2969 (eves).

SALFORD QUAYS Manchester. delightful 2 bed luxury f/f apt. £500pcm. 0283 46896 eves.

SHEPHERDS BUSH. Mins from tube. 3 bed, 2 bath, 1 ensuite, lge, sunny recep, kit, gch, entry phone. w/d. £260 pw. 0273 858402 or 081 749 2675

SLOANE SQUARE. Bright, attractive, 2nd floor flat, dbl bedroom, recep, kit & bath, lift, ch. £180 pw. 071-584 5501 T

ST. JAMES'S. Georgian House. Lovely unfurnished apartment situated in the heart of St. James's. Good size recep, large bed ensuite, bathroom, fully fitted kitchen. Available for L/Let. £290 pw. 24hr porterage. All enquiries Goddard & Smith 071-930 7321

SW10 Luxury 2 bed gdn flat, fully furn & equipped, excellent loc for transport & amenities. £380 pw. Drury 071 379 4816

URGENTLY Required for european banker 2 bedroom apt in K'bridge, South Ken, Chelsea areas. 071 370 5433 (J)

WC1 Short/long lets. Lux quiet b/sit. £80 pw incl. 1 bed flat £160 pw incl. Studio £120 pw incl. Near tube. 071 580 9407.

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COMPANY NOTICES

CANADIAN PACIFIC LIMITED
At a meeting of the Board of Directors held today, a quarterly dividend of twenty-three cents (23c) Canadian per share on the outstanding Ordinary Shares was declared, payable on April 29, 1991, to the holders of record at the close of business on March 27, 1991.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD.
D. J. DEEGAN
VICE-PRESIDENT
AND SECRETARY
CALGARY, March 11, 1991

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER of CAPITAL LEISURE ENTERTAINMENTS LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of The Insolvency Rules 1986 notice is hereby given that I, Kevin Paul Barry, FCA, a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs. Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 7th March 1991.
DATED THIS 7TH DAY OF MARCH, 1991
Kevin Paul Barry, FCA,
Liquidator
Leonard Curtis & Co.
Chartered Accountants
P.O.Box 553
30 Eastbourne Terrace
London W2 6LF

European Artist & Entertainment Ltd
(In Administrative Receivership)
Registered Number 1008436. Former company name K-Tel International (UK) Limited. Nature of business: Record Producer. Trade classification: 18. Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s) 8th March 1991. Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) National Westminster Bank Plc. Brian Mills and Peter Anthony Lawrence Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder No(s) 2305 and 6829 of Booth White 6, Raleigh House Admirals Way Waterside London E14 9SN

G WIGGINS LIMITED
IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP
Registered Number: 257410. Trading name: G Wiggins. Nature of business: Plant Hire and Construction Materials. Trade classification: 46. Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 4 March 1991. Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) Barclays Bank PLC. Neil Hunter Cooper and Ipe Jacob Joint Administrative Receivers. (office holder no(s) 008399/01 and 002121) of Robson Rhodes, 186 City Road, London EC1V 2NU

HARDY'S (DORSET STREET) LIMITED
Registered number: 1803338. Trading name: Hardy's (Dorset Street) Limited. Nature of business: Restaurant. Trade classification: 49. Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s) 1 March 1991. Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) Midland Bank Plc. Peter William Greaves DuBuisson and Phillip Rodney Sykes Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder no(s) 1369 and 6119) of Address BDO Binder Hamlyn 20 Old Bailey London EC4M 7BH

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
CH 1991 C 143
MANCHESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY
IN THE MATTER OF LOGBAR LIMITED (the "company")
COMPANY NUMBER: 2366676
REGISTERED OFFICE:
Gregg House, Gregg Street, Reddish, Stockport SK5 7BX
TAKE NOTICE that by Order of this Court:
1. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company be held at the offices of Messrs Baker Tilly, Brazennose House, Lincoln Square, Brazennose Street, Manchester on Friday, 12th April 1991 at 1100 hours for the purpose of passing the following Extraordinary Resolution:
"That by reason of its liabilities the company cannot continue its business and that the company be wound up and that Alan John Sutton of Messrs Baker Tilly, Brazennose House, Lincoln Square, Brazennose Street, Manchester be appointed Liquidator of the company".
2. That in the event that a quorum cannot be attained under the provisions contained in the Articles of Association of the company within 30 minutes of the time fixed for convening of the meeting, thereafter notwithstanding any provision of the said Articles of Association of the company or any other rule of law to the contrary, one person present will be deemed to constitute a meeting and a quorum for the purpose of passing the said Resolution.
3. The advertisement of this Order by insertion in The Times newspaper be deemed sufficient notice of the calling of the said meeting to any member of the company having the right to attend and vote upon such resolution.
BY ORDER OF THIS COURT

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF STOWHAVEN LTD
TRADING NAME: THE INFLATABLE BOAT CENTRE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 20TH MARCH 1991 at 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 3.00pm for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Terence John Roper, FIPA of 4, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98 (2) (a) of the said Act who will furnish Creditors with such information as they may require.
DATED this 1st day of March 1991
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
DIRECTOR
P. LEMMER

LEGAL NOTICES

ACCOLADE DISPLAYS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the Creditors of the above named company will be held at The Kennett Riverside, The Bear at Hungerford, Charnham Street, Hungerford, Berks RG17 0EL on Monday the 25th day of March 1991 at 11.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.
A list of the names and addresses of the creditors of the Company will be available for inspection free of charge at the company's trading address at Accolade House, Aerial Business Park, Lambourn Woodlands, Newbury, Berks RG16 7RZ on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd March 1991 between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.
Proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged with the Company's Registered Office of Leach Bright & Partners, Langton Priory, Portsmouth Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5EH not later than 12 noon on Friday the 22nd day of March 1991.
Dated this 7th day of March 1991
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
C F DAVIS
DIRECTOR

ASTINS (CONFECTIONERS) LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Poppleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD on Monday 18th March 1991 at 12 o'clock noon for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.
Pursuant to Section 98, Subsection (2)(a) of the Act, Mr Peter Lomas of Poppleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD is appointed to act as the Qualified Insolvency Practitioner who will furnish creditors with such information as they may reasonably require.
DATED THIS 6TH DAY OF MARCH 1991
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
M J ROBERTS
(DIRECTOR)

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
AND
IN THE MATTER OF GAMMA ENTERPRISES LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at The Hendon Hall Hotel, Ashley Lane, Hendon NW4 1HF on 27th March 1991, at 11 a.m. for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.
A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the offices of Fraser & Russell, 4 London Wall Buildings, Blomfield Street, London, EC2M 5NT, on 25th and 26th March 1991.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD,
MR. W.J. GHANDOUR
Director

IN THE MATTER OF AIRLINE GRAPHICS LIMITED
Airline Graphics Ltd
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that Geoffrey William Rhodes of Kidsons Impey, Enterprise House, 83a Western Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 1LJ, was appointed Liquidator of the above company by the creditors of Airline Graphics Ltd on 28 February 1991
DATED: 8 March 1991
G.W RHODES
LIQUIDATOR

IN THE MATTER OF CLIFFORD BARNETT GROUP LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 4.106
Notice is hereby given that I, Alan Richard Marlor, of Ernst & Young, Barclays House, 6 East Parade, Leeds LS1 1HA was appointed liquidator of the above company by the creditors on March 6, 1991.
Dated: March 7, 1991
A R Marlor
Liquidator

IN THE MATTER OF HENCEMEAD LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 4.106
Notice is hereby given that I, Alan Richard Marlor, of Ernst & Young, Barclays House, 6 East Parade, Leeds LS1 1HA was appointed liquidator of the above company by the creditors on March 6, 1991.
Dated: March 7, 1991
A R Marlor
Liquidator

LAZER KARTING LIMITED
Trading As MADTRAX
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act, 1986, that a Meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of LEONARD CURTIS & CO., situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London, W2 6LF, on Friday, the 22nd day of March, 1991 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in Section 98 et seq.
A list of names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
Dated the 7th day of March 1991
D.C. BAGNALL
Director

LEGAL NOTICES

LOOKPAGE LIMITED
REGISTERED NO 1966457
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 46(1)(a) of the Insolvency Act, 1986 that Panos Eliades of Panos Eliades & Co., 6 Bloomsbury Square, London, WC1A 2LP, was appointed Administrative Receiver of the above-named Company on 22nd February 1991 by Planeve Limited under the powers contained in a Debenture dated 6th February, 1986 whereby a fixed and floating charge was created over the whole of the assets of the Company
P ELIADES
ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER
22nd February 1991

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
CLIFFORD BARNETT GROUP LIMITED
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound-up are requested on or before April 26, 1991 to send in their names and addresses, with particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the undersigned, Alan Richard Marlor, of Ernst & Young, Barclays House, 6 East Parade, Leeds LS1 1HA, the liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing by the said liquidator, are by their solicitors or personally to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated, March 7, 1991
A R Marlor
Liquidator

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
HENCEMEAD LIMITED
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound-up are requested on or before April 26, 1991 to send in their names and addresses, with particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the undersigned, Alan Richard Marlor, of Ernst & Young, Barclays House, 6 East Parade, Leeds LS1 1HA, the liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing by the said liquidator, are by their solicitors or personally to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated March 7, 1991
A R Marlor
Liquidator

Notice of appointment of liquidator
voluntary winding up
Pursuant to section 109 of the Insolvency Act 1986
Company Number: 2008424. Name of company: AVANT GARDE SYSTEMS LIMITED. Previous names of company (if any): BASELORD LIMITED Nature of business: SALE OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT Type of liquidation: Creditors Address of registered office: P O. Box 55 1 SURREY STREET LONDON WC2R 2NT Liquidator(s) name(s) and address(es): JOHN A TALBOT, P.O. BOX 55 1 SURREY STREET LONDON WC2R 2NT. Date of appointment: 28 FEBRUARY, 1991. By whom appointed: CREDITORS.
Date: 8.3.91
John A. Talbot
Liquidator

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receiver
GLASGOW PAVILION LIMITED
Registered number: SC80759. Nature of business: HOTELIERS. Trade classification. 47. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 8TH MARCH 1991. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: LLOYD'S BANK PLC, 71 Lombard Street, London, EC3P 3BS Joint Administrative Receivers STEPHEN JOHN AKERS and GRAHAME JOHN WATTS (office holder no(s): 6460 and 2744). Address(es): 55/57 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6DX, and 12 Booth Street, Manchester, M60 2ED.

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receiver
Erostin Developments (Willesden) Limited
Registered number: 2241488. Trading name: Erostin Developments (Willesden) Limited. Nature of business: Builder & Property Developer. Trade classification: 23. Date of appointment of administrative receiver: 6 March 1991. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Generale Bank S.A./N.V. P R Copp and R Hocking Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder no(s): 1788/01 and 2322/01. Address: Stoy Hayward 8 Baker Street London W1M 1DA.

Notice of Administration Order
The Insolvency Act 1986
In the matter of
LESSER DESIGN & BUILD LIMITED
Nature of business: Design & Construction Specialists. Administration Order made : 7th March 1991.
E.J. WACEY
Administrator

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receiver
Erostin Developments (Croydon) Limited
Registered number: 2215169. Trading name: Erostin Developments (Croydon) Limited. Nature of business: Builder & Property Developer. Trade classification: 23. Date of appointment of administrative receiver: 6 March 1991. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Generale Bank S.A./N.V. P R Copp and R Hocking Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder no(s): 1788/01 and 2322/01. Address: Stoy Hayward 8 Baker Street London W1M 1DA.

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receiver
Brookmount Cream Limited
Registered number 2193032 Nature of business Builder & Property Developer. Trade classification 23. Date of appointment of administrative receiver 4 March 1991 Name of person appointing the administrative receivers Generale Bank S.A./N.V. P R Copp and R Hocking Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder no(s) 1788/01 and 2322/01. Address Stoy Hayward 8 Baker Street London W1M 1DA

Number of Company 2008424
The Companies Act 1985
COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES
Extraordinary Resolution
AVANT GARDE SYSTEMS LTD
Passed 28th February 1991
At an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the above-named Company, duly convened, and held at 3rd Floor, 252 Goswell Road, London, EC1V 7EB on the 28th day of February, 1991, the subjoined EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTION was duly passed, viz:-
RESOLUTION
"That it has been proved to the satisfaction of this meeting that the Company cannot by reason of its liabilities continue its business, and that it is advisable to wind up the same, and accordingly that the Company be wound up voluntarily, and that JOHN A TALBOT of ARTHUR ANDERSEN & CO P O BOX 55, 1 SURREY STREET LONDON WC2R 2NT be and he is hereby appointed liquidator for the purposes of such winding-up."
P. COWIE
Director

OUTLOOK CREATIVE SERVICES LIMITED
I, Jamie Taylor FIPA of Poppleton and Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the above-named Company on 1st March 1991 by the Members and Creditors.
Dated 11 March 1991
J Taylor FIPA
Liquidator

PADATA LIMITED
I, Terence John Roper FIPA of Poppleton and Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company on 6th March 1991 by the Members and Creditors.
Dated 11 March 1991
T J Roper FIPA
Liquidator

P T READ (TRANSPORT) LIMITED
IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP
Registered Number 1709221. Trading name P T Read. Nature of business Plant Hire and Construction Materials. Trade classification. 46. Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 4 March 1991 Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) Barclays Bank PLC. Neil Hunter Cooper and Ipe Jacob Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder no(s) 008399/01 and 002121) of Robson Rhodes, 186 City Road, London EC1V 2NU

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
GRANDE MARQUE VINTNERS LIMITED
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company is to be held at 76 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 7LB on 18 April 1991 at 11.45 a.m. for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.
A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at 76 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 7LB between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. as from 16 April 1991.
Proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged at the registered office of the company situated at 76 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 7LB not later than 12 noon on 17 April 1991
Dated 11 March 1991
JOHN ROBERT STUART-WORTLEY-HUNT
Director

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.106
Sintel International Limited
-In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation-
I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that I, Peter Richard Copp, Licensed Insolvency Practitioner, of Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street London W1M 1DA, was appointed Liquidator of the above named company on 21 February 1991. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address.
All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their debts in writing to me. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.
Dated: 6 March 1991
P. R. Copp
Liquidator

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

SPEAR, THOMAS HICKS Wappingthorn Manor Horsham Road Steyning Sussex: particulars to Biddle & Co., of 1 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7BU before 20th May 1991

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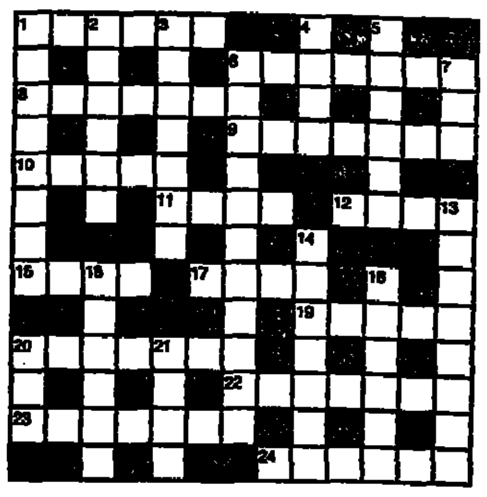

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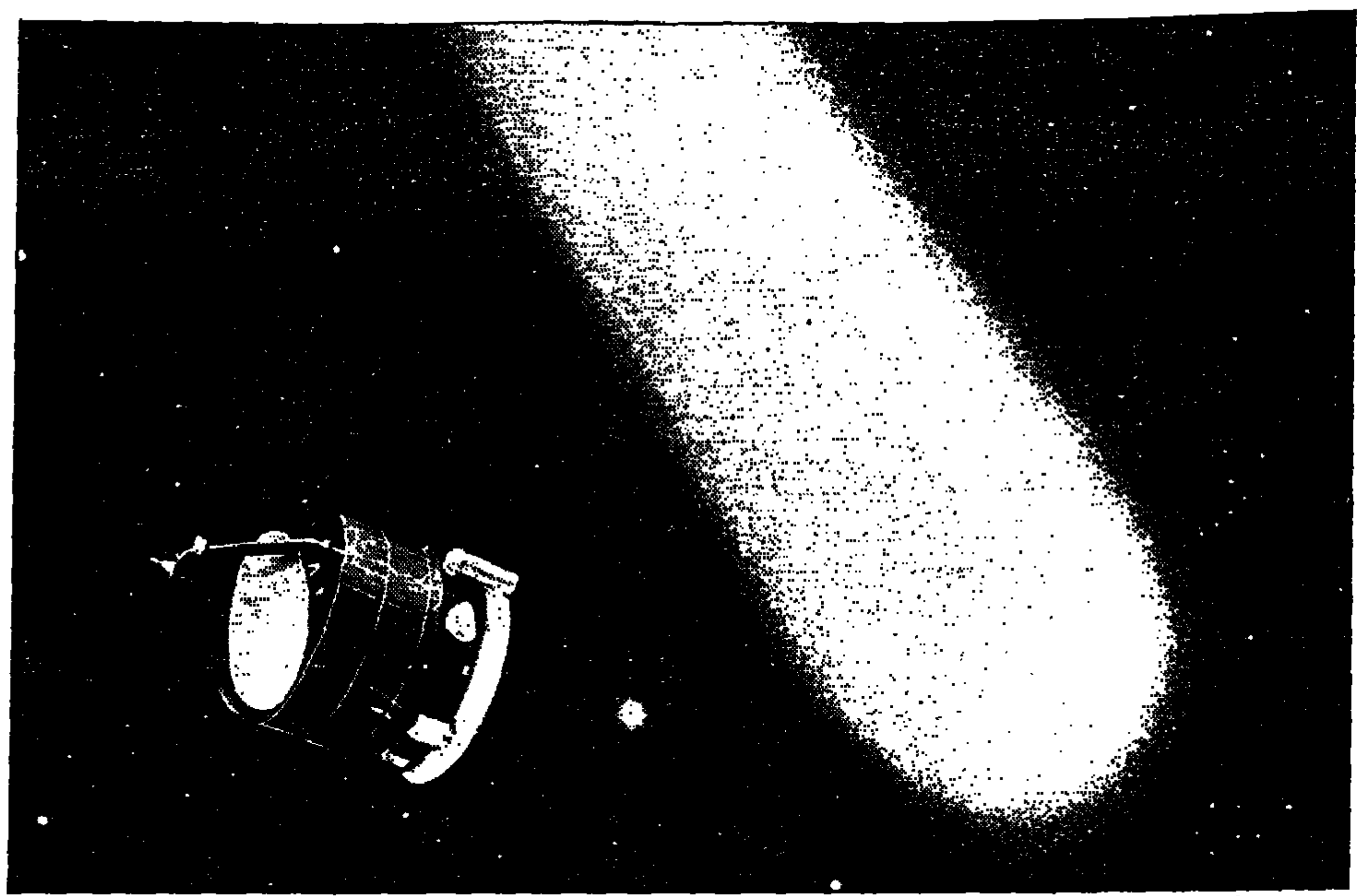
Kamikaze craft seeks new target

After probing Hally's comet, Giotto scientists plan second mission. Nicholas Booth reports



Encounter in space: scientists are hoping to obtain the finance to support the Giotto craft's voyage of discovery to a second comet

Today, astronomers in laboratories around Europe will celebrate one of the most successful space missions since the Eighties. Exactly five years ago the European Space Agency's Giotto spacecraft passed within 375 miles of the heart of Halley's comet and returned detailed information about our most famous celestial visitor.

The experimenters will toast their good fortune that Giotto survived the encounter so successfully that the craft has been redirected towards another comet.

In late 1986, the agency's spacecraft controllers realised that careful tweaking of the orbit could send Giotto towards an extra target — Comet Grigg-Skjellerup. For this, they had to reactivate the craft and execute a fly-by of the Earth to give it enough energy.

Last February, the agency activated Giotto to check its health, and the initial prognosis was that the thermal and attitude control systems were in good enough shape to make an extended mission possible.

For the ten experiments on Giotto, seven instruments were working, and five were expected to produce useful data during another cometary encounter. These included two British-built experiments: a dust-impact detector provided by Kent university and a plasma analyser from University College London.

Dr John Zarnecki, of the university's space sciences unit, says: "Every indication is that our instrument has not degraded too badly." Sadly, Giotto's television camera will not return pictures because its light baffle is blocking its field of view, although the way its image detectors have changed in space will provide important engineering data for future missions.

Although the Giotto extended mission (GEM) has been approved as scientifically useful, the budget has not been approved. The agency has put off the decision until June, a year before its intended encounter with the Grigg-Skjellerup comet.

"We have seen only one comet in detail," Dr Zarnecki says. "We need to know whether Halley is typical of the hundreds of comets we know âbout. Recent evidence suggests that it is not."

The cost of the mission is believed to be about £5 million, cheap compared with the funds required for new missions, but a lot to find from scratch. A British government official comments: "It is virtually impossible for us to find new funds if it is an optional programme. Having said that, I do not think the agency can let GEM go." Dr Zarnecki adds: "It would be shameful to miss GEM because it would give us a new space science mission for peanuts."

Giotto's new lease of life was not planned because its encounter with Halley was almost a kamikaze mission. Giotto was launched towards Halley as the comet had passed its near point to the Sun and was leaving the solar system. The dust and gas thrown off from the comet nucleus by solar heating was a formidable barrier. With a relative velocity of 44 miles a second, every dust grain had the explosive impact of a hand-grenade. Giotto's ingenious "bumper shield" protected it from the onslaught.

Hours after its encounter, the spacecraft was put into hibernation because its experiments were intended to operate in the dust and gas of a comet's tail, not in deep space. Giotto has since continued to orbit the Sun, occasionally intersecting the orbit of the Earth.

Giotto's legacy has been to show that comets are probably stranger than had been imagined. Halley's nucleus is one of the darkest objects ever seen, reflecting only 4 per cent of the light reaching it. The nucleus is peanut-shaped, about six miles across, and it wobbles because it is rotating end over tip faster than it spins. Chemical analyses of the dust and gas showed that it contains the building blocks of life: carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen and oxygen.

As Halley heads out of the solar system, it is monitored by a telescope at the European southern observatory in Chile. In February, the nucleus ejected a cloud of material 187,500 miles long, causing the comet to brighten by a factor of 300. "This is very peculiar behaviour," Dr Zarnecki says.

This shows that Halley is more active than other comets. Gerhard Schwehm, the agency's project scientist for the new mission, says: "Grigg-Skjellerup is an older comet, which will help us to understand the physics of how comets evolve during their repeated passes of the Sun."

● *The author's* Space: The Next 100 Years *is published by Mitchell Beazley (£12.99).*

Plenty of life left in the aspirin

Household cure could prevent heart attacks and help in pregnancy

ASPIRIN is so cheap that nobody takes it seriously, a British researcher told a medical conference last week. Richard Peto, an Oxford university epidemiologist, produced research claiming aspirin can save thousands of lives a year by cutting the risk of heart attacks and strokes by at least 25 per cent.

The results, from an analysis of 215 studies involving 100,000 patients, were given to an American College of Cardiology meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

The anti-coagulant effects of half an aspirin a day would, he said, save the lives of 10,000 in every million Americans treated for heart disease or strokes, and prevent as many non-fatal attacks.

In a study at Boston university medical school, scientists reported last week that aspirin may also lower the risk of bowel cancer by inhibiting body chemicals believed to play a role in the development of tumours.

Meanwhile, the potential benefits of aspirin as a treatment for some pregnancy conditions is being investigated in an international study involving about 5,200, women, most of them British.

Recent research suggests that aspirin can prevent the onset of pre-eclampsia — in which pregnant women develop high blood pressure and associated foetal growth failure — and reduce the need for Caesarean sections. Larger studies are needed to confirm or refute the results.

Dr Christopher Redman, the consultant obstetrician at the John Radcliffe hospital, Oxford, and a researcher for the study, emphasises that no woman should take the drug in pregnancy without close medical supervision, because of the risk of adverse side-effects.

In 400 BC, Hippocrates recommended that women drink a brew made from willow leaves to ease the pain of labour. Willow leaves and bark, chemists were to show centuries later, contain salicin, a substance closely related to aspirin.

In the 1890s, chemists working for Bayer in Germany carried out further research and developed techniques, as a result of which the company registered aspirin as a trade mark in 1899.

Since then the drug has found its place in the medicine cabinets of households worldwide. It should, nevertheless, be used cautiously because its side-effects include bleeding of the stomach lining. Children should never be given aspirin except under close medical supervision, and adults should seek doctor's advice before taking it regularly.

THOMSON PRENTICE

Following in the footsteps of history

Scientists examining dinosaur tracks in Africa hope to shed new light on the monsters' habits

PETER TRIEVNOR

Open wide: the jaws of *allosaurus* on a museum model

British and Zimbabwean scientists analysing the first detailed investigations into the longest set of dinosaur footprints in Africa are hoping their findings will shed new light on dinosaur behaviour.

The prints, some in almost mint condition, are of 34 steps taken over about 30 yards by a bipedal carnivorous dinosaur with a birdlike three-toed foot that measures 16 inches from heel to toe.

Found in the Zambezi valley in northern Zimbabwe, the footprints are providing an unusually long series of "snapshots" of the reptile as it shifted through the slimy surface of a dying freshwater lake about 140 million years ago.

The geology of the site, on the Ntumbe river in the Chewore safari area, has been correlated with Tanzania's Tendeguru beds and the abundant fossil grounds of the Morrison beds in Wisconsin, areas best known for deposits of the bones of carnosaurs.

Tim Broderick, the Zimbabwean research geologist who cast the first impressions of the prints, believes the Ntumbe dinosaur was an *allosaurus*, towering perhaps 16 feet above ground and an ancestor of the *Tyrannosaurus rex*, the biggest and most voracious of the carnosaurs.

The first 14 prints, with the hint of a claw at every toe, were discovered by an Australian big-game hunter in 1984 as he followed animal tracks across a recently eroded shelf of soft sandstone. Last year, Dr Theargarten Lingham-Soliar, of Reading university, led an expedition sponsored by the Geological Association for a six-week examination of the trail.

The survey revealed 20 new prints when river alluvium was brushed away to expose the rock. Measurements show the dinosaur taking long, confident strides at first, then stopping and apparently looking up — indicated by an abrupt shortening of pace and the mark of a tail touching the ground.

JAN RAATH

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Requests for further details and applications (CV plus the names of two referees) should be addressed to Professor J. Anderson, Department of Biological Sciences, Hatherly Laboratories, Exeter EX4 4PS. Telephone: 0392 263790. Fax: 0392 263700. Closing date for receipt of applications: 22 March 1991.

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* Génie logiciel. Vous serez associés à des projets dans les secteurs des langages, méthodes objet ou télécom en base de données objets, persistence ou C++, spécifications formelles et/ou validation, méthodologie, qualité ou certification. (réf. G.I.)

* Robotique Mobile. Vous travaillerez sur la navigation, la locomotion, les systèmes multi-robots, les intégrations de prototypes pré-industriels. (réf. R.M.)

* Algorithmique, automatique, contrôle flou, reconnaissance des formes ou réseaux de neurones. Les applications en diagnostic et contrôle de procédés industriels feront partie de vos secteurs d'intervention. (réf. A.A).

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Who thinks cleanliness is next to healthiness?

In spring most women's thoughts still turn to cleaning, although the annual ritual is no guarantee of a hygienic home. **Liz Gill** reports

Among the maxims scattered through *Enquire Within*, the 1893 home compendium, is the promise that "health is the reward of cleanliness". This was no doubt of immense comfort to the housewife about to embark on her spring-cleaning ritual, including scrubbing out the cupboards with carbolic soap, and cleaning wallpaper with flour and water dough.

A Mori survey released today suggests that while we may not be so determined to clean in the spring (many now choose the Christmas period instead), the concept of an annual overhaul persists. The survey, on behalf of the producers of the Vax vacuum cleaner, also shows that a surprisingly high number of women (47 per cent) spend more than ten hours a week cleaning. But the trouble with cleaning is that, in health terms, what you see is not necessarily what you get.

As Dr Sally Bloomfield, a lecturer in pharmaceutical microbiology at King's College, London, says: "We have an obsession with visible dirt which we associate with germs. But you cannot see germs: a warm, wet dish-cloth can be crawling with them.

"Hygiene should be an ongoing process. Spring-cleaning, where you knock out the overall level of dust and grime on floors and walls and so on, does not have a lot of relevance to infection control."

The key, she says, is blocking the route of transmission. It is thus more important to be scrupulous about washing hands than it is "to spend hours going round the bathroom"; more useful to soak a dishcloth in bleach than to mop the kitchen floor.

Similarly, disinfectant should be employed to a specific end — "If you have to clear up after the dog, for example, rather than just sloshing it over every surface. What disinfectant actually means is a reduction in germs to the level where they are not normally harmful to health, and you may often do this just as efficiently with soap and water.

"But I would certainly not be one of those people who say you should never use disinfectant because of the possible damage to the environment. Over the past hundred years, disinfectants have contributed substantially to the decline in infectious diseases, and an abrupt change would be very foolish. On the evidence to date I think the risks of infection are greater than the risks to the environment."

Neither would Dr Bloomfield dismiss the importance of the aesthetics of cleanliness. "I have a feeling that appearance has an effect on the human mind, that we somehow need to perceive cleanliness in order to work in a hygienic way. It is part of feeling positive about ourselves."

The psychological element of spring-cleaning remains important, even though the physical need for it may have declined, according to Graham Jukes, the under-secretary at the Institution of Environmental Health Officers. "In the days of coal-fire heating there was a genuine need to remove the soot deposits and dust that winter conditions had created. But it also had symbolic benefits — shrugging off the winter — and I think it still does.

"Public health-wise, though, there is a need to clean your house thoroughly a lot more often than once a year. I cannot tell you how many places I have been in that look problem-free, but have had dreadful infestations. I remember one house where they had spotted the odd beetle, and when we lifted up the carpet there was another carpet underneath, of beetles."

> *'We have an obsession with visible dirt which we associate with germs. But you cannot see germs'*

As more householders embrace green lifestyles, the need for vigilance will increase. Dr Richard Lane, the head of medical entomology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, says: "The more health foods we eat, unpolished rice, no insecticides, and so on, the more likely we are to see things like weevils." Spring-cleaning is useful, he believes, in reaching the parts routine cleaning tends to miss.

In theory, reducing the number of house-dust mites should benefit asthma sufferers, but in practice the benefits are debatable. Dr Martyn Partridge, a consultant in chest medicine at Whipps Cross hospital, east London, and the chairman of the education committee of the National Asthma Campaign, says: "If you put someone in a totally house-dust mite-free, sterile room for six weeks, there is no doubt that their asthma will improve, but the evidence suggests this cannot be achieved in the home." Vacuum cleaners without filters simply send the mites airborne, as does a lot of shaking of curtains.

Dr Jill Warner, a research fellow in child health at Southampton university, points out that children exposed to high levels of airborne pollutants in the first months of life run an increased risk of developing allergic reactions. "We know this is the case with babies born just before or after the tree pollen season, and for those exposed to vast quantities of dust. Certainly, you should not have a baby in a room when you are spring-cleaning, and anyone known to be susceptible should be nowhere near."

Allergy susceptibilities affect about 20 per cent of the population, says Dr Ian White, a consultant dermatologist at St John's Dermatology Centre in London, and these are the ones most likely to suffer chronic irritant contact dermatitis from household cleansers. "Cleansers de-grease your skin just as they de-grease your pots and pans. If it becomes chronic, it will need special medication and can take months to clear up. The answer is to wear rubber gloves with cotton ones underneath to absorb the sweat."

Dr Bloomfield says it is even possible to be too clean. "The widest continual exposure to small numbers of organisms probably maintains our resistance, which is why populations in remote areas can be decimated by outsiders bringing in their viruses."

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ADVERTISING ARCHIVE

Cleaning can damage your health: from a Johnson's Wax ad of the Thirties

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MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Child-sized problem

Having read of the social workers' dawn raid on South Ronaldsay island, parents looking at any child destined by nature to be a cox rather than a second row rugby forward may wonder, usually unnecessarily, if they have erred. Is their child just small, possibly like granddad, or has he or she in the medical jargon "failed to thrive", a term now given a hint of menace after its repeated use by social workers advancing it as one of the reasons for the separation of children from their families?

Children who fail to gain weight and height at the same rate as their contemporaries pose a difficult diagnostic problem. A simple rule is that the more they lag behind, the more likely there is to be a discernible cause; even so, most children of unusually small stature are not suffering from any abnormality, nor have they been physically or emotionally deprived, but are merely exhibiting a family trait or the late effects of a low birth weight. Other children are late developers; John Kendall-Carpenter, the legendary rugby forward, was too small to be chosen for his college side while on a short wartime university course, but after he returned to Oxford following war service he was tall and heavy enough to captain the university side and England; there is no evidence that he was in any way deprived in early life.

More important than the height and weight of a child is its demeanour. Is he or she energetic and jolly, or listless and depressed? If the latter, is it due to environment or heredity? Congenital heart, lung and metabolic diseases, chronic infection and faulty nutrition have to be excluded as reasons for a child's failure to thrive before the condition can be safely attributed to emotional deprivation or physical or mental abuse. Escapers from the pace of mainland life are just the type to favour the high-fibre diet, so often short in calories and essential proteins, vitamins and minerals, which is becoming a common cause of malnutrition.

Given the difficulty of unravelling the causes of small stature, and the failure to consult the Ronaldsay GP about his patients' past medical history, their present health and their socio-economic background, such a diagnosis by the social workers would seem at best unwise.

More fertile ground

While the dispute over the artificial insemination of single women in their late twenties and thirties has received maximum publicity, a small advance in the treatment of endometriosis, a common cause of infertility in women of exactly the same age group, has passed without notice.

In endometriosis, which affects around 15 per cent of women aged 20 to 35, endometrial tissue, the lining of the womb, migrates and grows in the pelvic cavity and other pelvic organs including the ovaries, intestines and bladder, or even further afield, when it may affect the umbilicus, pre-existing abdominal scars, or even the lungs. It almost invariably causes infertility; surprisingly, this infertility may occur when the disease is otherwise symptom-free. It also causes chronic lower abdominal pain, which is worse at period times and during sexual intercourse; occasionally monthly bleeding from unexpected sites.

If symptoms are troublesome hormones are prescribed to prevent further migration of uterine tissue, and to encourage the shrinkage of any endometrium which has already spread. Danazol is the usual drug of choice, but recently Roussel Laboratories has launched Dimetriose (gestrione), which, it is claimed, is equally effective but only needs to be taken twice weekly rather than daily, and has fewer side effects. After prolonged treatment with hormones, regression of the endometriosis may occur, and in many cases pregnancy will follow. The side effects of hormone treatment for endometriosis are usually mild. Occasionally patients complain of minimal virilisation: deepening of the voice, acne and hirsutism. Others have noted a change in interests; a usually demure girl may swap embroidery for hang gliding, a finding which questions the relative importance of upbringing and physical make-up in gender.

Gunning for trouble

Airguns are so commonly given to boys to train them in the use of guns, and they are then so casual in the way they use them, that one small road in a cathedral city became known as "hell-fire alley". The accepted view that airguns rank halfway between cap pistols and an adult gun has been challenged by a study published in the journal *Eye*, by three doctors from the department of ophthalmology in Glasgow. In a ten-year period, 41 patients were admitted to the department with eyes injured by airgun pellets. Boys were seven times more likely to have been hit than girls; almost invariably these injuries were accidental. These boys paid heavily for their education; 38 per cent lost the greater part of the sight from one eye, 10 per cent were completely blinded. Already, airguns may not be sold to people under 16; the authors make a plea that this legislation should be strengthened.

Rationing out the remedies

An American plan to rank complaints — and redistribute the money to treat them — could help NHS funds go further

HAT would you think if ur doctor refused to treat ur illness because it was not his "value for money" list? is is the situation which will e people in the American te of Oregon later this year.

But healthcare rationing is t a purely American phenenon. It occurs in the ited Kingdom every day, d doctors claim it will get rse after April 1, when tional Health Service nges make hospitals even re budget conscious.

Costly drugs for treating ncer and kidney disease, perimental therapies, transnts and treatments such as vitro fertilisation are ong the candidates most ly to be rationed.

he Oregon list was proed because four out of ten residents had slipped through the health insurance net. Most of them earned too much to qualify for public insurance, but could not afford private insurance premiums. The state set out to establish a basic healthcare package.

An earlier attempt to sort out healthcare priorities attracted widespread criticism last year: it ranked cosmetic surgery on the breast ahead of treating fractured legs. In the latest attempt, 714 health services were ranked according to their cost, improvement in quality of life, and effect on life expectancy. Infertility treatments come fairly low on the list: the more expensive test-tube baby techniques — IVF and GIFT — were very close to the bottom, at 701. Later this year the state legislature will decide where the treatment line is to be drawn. The money saved on treatments no longer offered will be used to extend public health insurance.

A number of ailments which would be treated without question on the NHS, including chronic pancreatitis, and constitutional aplastic anaemia, are at the bottom of the Oregon list.

The low rating of chronic pancreatitis may reflect the fact that it often results from alcohol abuse. Constitutional aplastic anaemia, a life-threatening disease in children and young adults, is treated with bone marrow transplants.

Paul Kind, a research fellow at York university's centre for health economics, has just returned from a fact-finding trip to Oregon. He is impressed by the large amount of information on the outcome of various procedures collected within a short period of time. "That suggests that a similar exercise is feasible in this country," he says.

Mr Kind points out that while healthcare rationing in Britain tends to exclude certain types of patients, in Oregon it is medical conditions which are excluded. "In this country," he says, "we have management by shroud waving, and the problem with all this special pleading is that some individuals get treatment at the expense of others."

Robert Low, a Glasgow infertility specialist, is also well aware of the contrast between treatment on the NHS (which is subsidised by the private sector in his city) and the treatments doctors can offer patients who have the means to pay. "In the private sector, doctors can take and help women who are over 37, or whose partners have low sperm counts," Mr Low says. "They have no chance within the NHS."

Another way of applying rationing is by looking at the age of patients. Heart transplants are most likely to be offered to those aged between 20 and 40, while some kidney transplant centres are still reluctant to operate on patients more than 70 years old. This limit may also be applied to patients seeking coronary artery bypass operations.

More understandably, perhaps, persistent smokers whose habit has caused circulation problems in their legs are refused surgery until they quit. Similarly, alcoholics seeking a liver transplant need to show they have overcome their addiction. But David Wheatley, a professor of cardiology at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, who is prepared to operate on smokers, says: "We have to be careful about making judgments about patients' lifestyles. The next thing would be to refuse treatment to people who do not wear seat belts."

> *'In this country, some individuals get treatment at the expense of others'*

Expensive, but superior drug treatments are also causing much heart searching. Drugs have been developed which are much more effective at relieving the nausea experienced by cancer patients treated with chemotherapy agents. But because they cost £8 for an injection some centres are limiting them.

George Jacob, a consultant surgeon at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield, believes that restrictions on the use of interleukin 2, a new cancer treatment, owe more to its high price than its experimental nature. "I don't think you can say it is experimental when Britain is one of only two European countries which has not given it a product licence. The real issue is one of finance, and refusing its use is a form of rationing which is spurious and unfair."

ANN KENT

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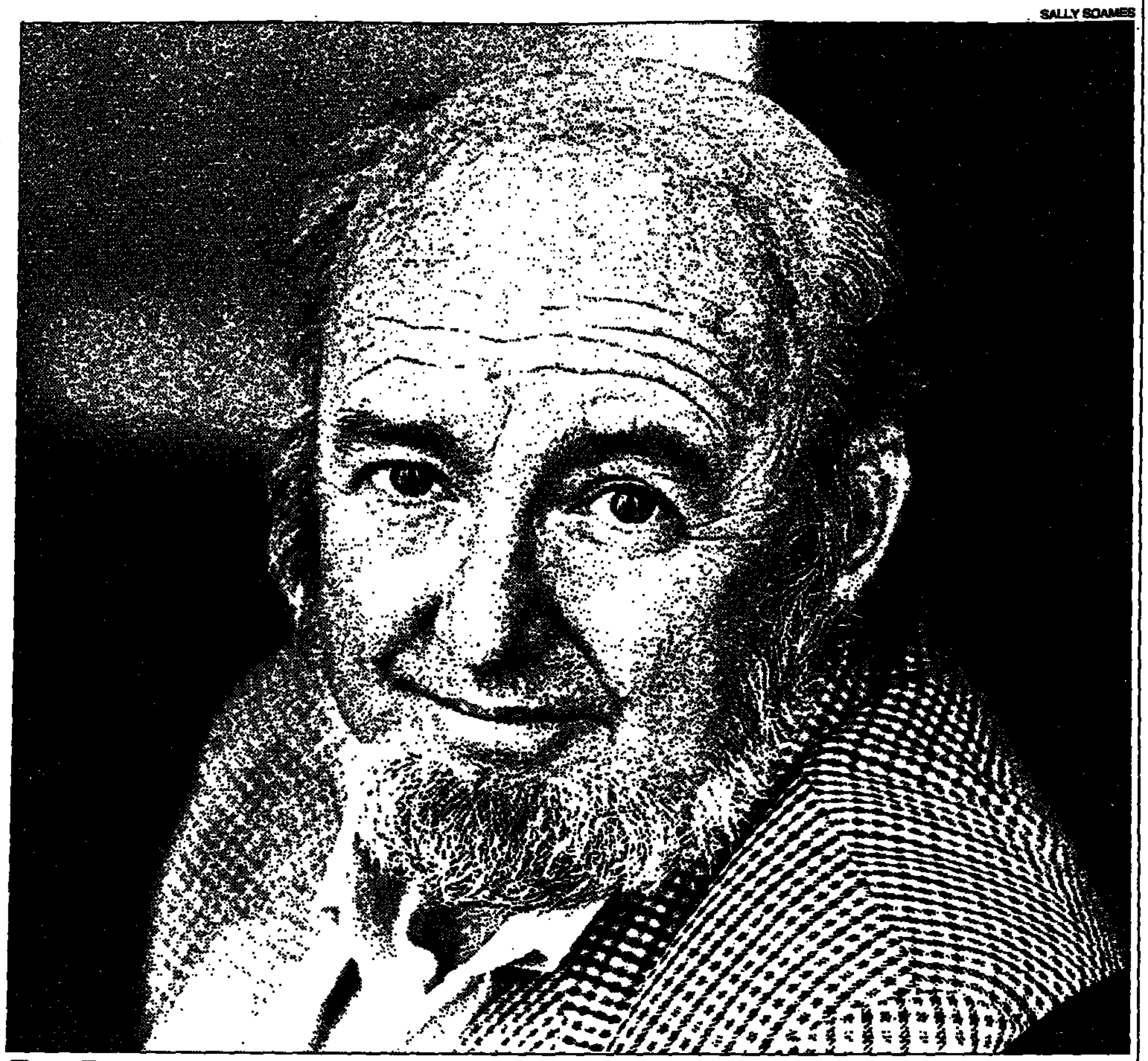
Hijack me didgeridoo, blue

Anthony Quinton on an everyday story of a flight, with aboriginal folk and supporting cast of stereotypes

SALLY SOAMES



Thomas Keneally, teller of rattling good yarns of adventure, who uses the novel as a continuation of the front page splash by other means

This appears on the surface to be just an exciting story about an aircraft hijacking. Thomas Keneally has, however, introduced a spicy new ingredient by including on the passenger manifest a group of Australian Aboriginal dancers, on their way to Frankfurt from a successful visit to New York. There are only five of them, so they can be distinguished from one another: the sophisticated star performer, who takes drugs; a traditional-minded uncle figure; a quiet one who plays the didgeridoo, and is devoted to the Queen of England; a devout Christian, and so on.

The central figure is Frank McCloud, the tour manager of the troupe. He is moderately alcoholic, and has been working for some years on a novel which has not greatly excited his agent in New York. His efficient and sensible wife, Pauline, has come along for the ride. She earns twice what he does and, in effect, supports him. His prevailing frame of mind, therefore, is one of quietly maudlin self-pity. The backbone of the narrative is his passage towards heroic redemption.

The hijackers are five in number and have disyllabic names, Taliq, Yusuf, Hasni, Musa, Ramir. They speak in an old-fashioned, grammatical and courteous fashion. When they take the plane over they single out an American Jewish computer salesman of a dignified State Department type, and an extravagantly cynical *Daily Telegraph* reporter called Cale for special treatment. McCloud is lumped in with them because a politically dubious corporation, planning to secure diamond mining concessions in the Aboriginals' region, is among the main sponsors of the tour. The only other distinctive personage aboard is Daisy Nakamura, an attractive Japanese-American woman, a Goldwater Republican on her first trip to Europe. She adds some additional colour and plays an important, erotically self-sacrificial role when the going gets really rough.

The reader's anxiety is awoken soon after take-off, and is kept at a high pitch throughout. The book is not recommended reading for an air trip. Intercalated in the scenes on the aircraft are McCloud's recollections and his thoughts about his present situation. They ought to add a further dimension to the book but somehow they do not manage to. McCloud's musings do not engage with the main drama. For example, he recalls a school teacher whose fine bosom was greatly admired by him and his friends. One day she fell over in the classroom in a dizzy spell and her fine head of hair proved to be a wig. It turned out that her husband was slowly poisoning her with thallium. The anecdote is too arresting to be allowed just to float by.

Thomas Keneally's novels have dealt with a large variety of places and times: a Catholic seminary, convicts in early Australia, Joan of Arc, the Arctic, the Holocaust. His kind of unobstructed readiness to take up any kind of straightforwardly interesting theme brings to mind the novels of R. C. Hutchinson, with whom, indeed, there is some overlap of subject-matter. But he is a less serious writer. On the other hand, there are intimations in what he writes of deeper literary intentions than are to be found in the books of such direct and uncomplicated adventure story writers as Hammond Innes, Geoffrey Jenkins, or Desmond Bagley.

FLYING HERO CLASS
By Thomas Keneally
Hodder & Stoughton, £13.95

He is most reminiscent of Morris West, although he writes better. There is the same sense of the novel as a continuation of the newspaper by other means.

There are all sorts of echoes here. Of le Carré, for example, in the suggestion that is brought up but never resolved, that the whole thing is not what it appears but is a set-up, arranged and paid for by Mossad, to heighten tension at a moment when that is convenient for Israel. Then there is the lady who shouts at the three scapegoats as they are paraded along the aisles of the plane. It is hard not to visualise her as Shelley Winters.

At one important point, the final crisis inside the plane, obscurity prevails about just what is happening, apart from noise, confusion and people bumping into each other. That is surely ruled out by the adventure story writer's oath, just as poisons unknown to science are in the corresponding detective tradition. I must confess, too, that I was not convinced that, even in New York, audiences would get excited about people dancing to represent sacred emus and marsupial rats in front of recently executed acrylic paintings of holy rocks and water holes.

Drop out from the big Bomb

THE Nevada desert holds out the promise of peace and spacious living for anyone with the courage to claim it; but it is also the home of the hydrogen bomb, a place where tests took place in pursuit of knowledge so terrible that it altered the outlines of all civilisation. Michael Doane shows how these two images counterbalance each other in the lives of Vance Ravel and his father. The father, a sergeant in that corner of the US army which carried out the tests, fulfilled his duties faithfully and uncritically, hoping to become an officer and provide his family with a better pension. One by one his friends became ill or died. He realised what was happening and knew he'd had enough, so suddenly one day he simply "walked into the light" and was gone. The completeness of this death had a lasting effect on his son, causing a restlessness in adult life only quieted when he commits himself to the happiness of domestic life with wife and child in the solitude of the desert. There he cultivates his garden and enjoys the good life, but it cannot last untested. He is besieged first by one and then by many rootless people who seek the calm which he has gained. They settle themselves nearby and decide he is their prophet, that he is the centre of their lives and must contribute to their rituals. His family leave him and the idyll is ruined. He must burn the commune out before he can be free of them, and then live through years of urban penance before regaining what he had. Perhaps the dream itself is a little unexciting. Although Doane seems to be writing a fable for our times, he is, in fact, arranging polished stereotypes in patterns not quite new enough to save the reader from unease.

Anne Barnes

SIX MILES TO ROADSIDE BUSINESS
By Michael Doane
Cape, £14.99

VICTORIES
By George V. Higgins
André Deutsch, £13.99

BLOOD
By Janice Galloway
Secker & Warburg, £12.99

SURFACE TENSION
By Greg Snow
André Deutsch, £12.99

Another type of unease is provoked by George V. Higgins's account of small town **Victories** among the careful voters of Vermont. A baseball player uses his celebrity status to set himself up as a candidate for Congress, thereby setting the scene for all the potential corruption and muckraking available on such occasions. The year is 1968, and America is juddering with the complexity of emotions which led to the murders of Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy, and Vermont provides a neat arena for the political shift just beginning to be felt. Higgins starts his novel slowly with an academic insistence on background data, but after the first few almost unreadable pages, his grasp of political motives and his extraordinary skill with dialogue begin to reveal themselves. Each of his characters has a distinctive idiom which is used with skill, both to economise with the truth and to seek out a weakness in the defences of another, and as the various layers of deceit are picked out during a busy narrative, much is said about contemporary politics.

Janice Galloway's short stories in **Blood** emphasise a different set of deceits. Using deliberately jagged narrative structures to convey intensity of feeling, she nevertheless writes with graceful bitterness about situations in life where women feel themselves to be humiliated in subtle and barely expressible ways. A small girl walking down the street with her mother is expected to stand and listen while a local tramp shouts abuse at her mother and no one stops him. Many of the stories are about the particular fear felt by women in the face of aggressive masculinity. Men are seen as callous and brutalised by their institutions, and by their language, both of which emphasise the brotherhood they share to exclude, and so to humiliate, women. Janice Galloway often conveys her gloomy thoughts with humour, and without personal anger. It is urban life itself which brings the threat of violence, not the people living it.

In his first novel, **Surface Tension**, Greg Snow deals with threats and violence on a lighter, more designer level. His hero is a bright young copywriter whose one problem is that he seems to be turning into a cartoon. When under pressure, his arms, legs and indeed all parts of his body place themselves in extraordinary positions, or stretch out into strange shapes quite beyond his control. Sometimes he even finds that cartoon balloons materialise out of his ears, imprinted with his own lowest thoughts. Such a disability is full of comic promise, and Snow makes the most of it, pointing out the idiotic values of the world his hero moves in, but still joking.

From the wilder shores of love

PAPERBACKS

Frances Hill

LOVE MEDICINE
By Louise Erdrich
Abacus, £4.50

BOY, GIRL, BOY, GIRL
By David Michaelis
Bantam New Fiction, £4.99

ORDINARY LOVE
By Jane Smiley
Flamingo, £4.99

CHAOTIC lives of people dispossessed are the stuff of **Love Medicine**. The Kashpaw family, of the Chippewa tribe, have lost their land, livelihood, culture and even "good nature". The older ones still live on what is left of their North Dakota reservation; the younger ones wander, dropping into drunkenness and crime. Albertine Johnson, her mother Indian, father Swedish, enters these lives and knits them together, moving backwards and forwards in time, exploring the bonds of blood, myth and love surviving destruction. Every one of a large cast of characters is equally convincing, from Marie, 14-year-old saint-in-waiting who becomes pet and victim to a maniacal nun, to Gerry, who conceives a child in the visiting room at the prison. This is the sort of book — beautifully written, profound, subtle — that you want to start again as soon as you finish it.

Not so **Boy, Girl, Boy, Girl**. Much of it is as silly as its title. Sam Simon, teenage son of a self-consciously "liberal" mother who says things like "Sam, I understand your sincere if somewhat misapplied desire to accommodate the zeitgeist," is a "pioneer" boy at a girls' boarding school in New England. He falls for Berry Mansfield, owner of the school's largest bosom. He also flirts with her sister. The plot consists largely of his failure to bed either of them. The writing is clumsy, offering sentences such as "Somebody in one of the houses was baking bread, and I could almost feel the lumps of new dough rising in my heart," the characterisations thin, the insights superficial. The 30-year-old narrator seems hardly to have moved on from the 13-year-old boy.

There are good moments, however. David Michaelis gets considerable mileage out of adolescent eccentricities. Scenes of boys classifying bosoms or preparing for bed, with the *OED* in case of insomnia, throat warmers and French earplugs, are entertaining. His book provides fresh insight into why America hates its Wasps. This upper-class is as protected, insular and complacent as Erdrich's Indians are vulnerable and unsure. Unfortunately, the author achieves no ironic distance from his privileged world.

By contrast, one of the strengths of Jane Smiley's novella, **Ordinary Love**, is the constant presence of another, less affluent realm within that of the Kinsella family in Iowa. The narrator and two of her grown-up children are waiting for Michael, another child, to return from two years of teaching in India. He arrives, with amoebic dysentery. None of the family can ever quite forget, as they agonise about their relationships, the more pressing agonies of the world he still half inhabits. Jane Smiley is an honest writer, never thrilling but often illuminating. But *Ordinary Love* is undermined by the lack of credibility of the narrator. It is difficult to believe that this level-headed woman did something so foolish as to tell her egomaniac husband about her affair with a neighbour, causing him to abscond with the children.

A similar lack presents even greater difficulties in the second novella in this volume, "Good Will". Robert Miller is living the self-sufficient life in a forest in Pennsylvania with his wife and seven-year-old son. The son's growing psychological difficulties, as a result of feeling deprived, envious and embarrassingly different from his peers, are plausible and fascinating. But the narrator seems a wise, sensitive, middle-aged woman thinly disguised as an egocentric male. This narrator could never really have forced a small son to help slaughter lambs against his will.

Nastiness in the boatshed

HORROR

Anne Billson

THE BOAT HOUSE

By Stephen Gallagher
New English Library, £13.99

WHAT with the unhealthy modern tendency towards flatulent blockbusters, it seems churlish to complain that a book isn't long enough. But to say that Stephen Gallagher's latest leaves you panting for more is a criticism rather than a puff; as with his last novel, *Rain*, you feel that the plot has been wrapped up too abruptly. Still, it is better to want more than to wish there were less, and one's dissatisfaction stems partly from the writer's skill in conjuring up a location, populating it with likeable, believable characters, lighting the blue touch-paper, and standing back for fireworks which are gone in a flash. Perhaps, in Gallagher's case, one should say waterworks rather than fireworks; *The Boat House* is another of his psycho-thrillers in watery settings. This time, it's a lakeside resort, and the psycho is of unambiguous supernatural provenance; folklorists and Dvořák fans will sit up and take notice when the ethereal Russian girl who takes refuge with the local mechanic describes herself as a *rusalka*. She translates this as "heartbreaker", but readers unfamiliar with the word can rest assured it entails a fair amount of green slime.

● **The Shaft**, by David J. Schow (*Macdonald, £12.95*). Schow is the chap who first coined the term *splatter punk*, and his second novel is every bit as splattery and punkish as his first, *The Kill Riff*. Nice, middle-class graphic artist finds himself allied with drug dealer and prostitute against the amorphous creature which is devouring the inhabitants of a crumbling Chicago apartment block. Much blood is spilled and many, many grams of cocaine are snorted, but what neither the plot résumé nor the gloopy jacket illustration tell you is that Schow is a humdinger of a writer who can twist the standard schlock-horror situation into a series of character sketches, all of them delivered so energetically that his words practically pogo off the page.

● **Moon Dance**, by S. P. Somtow (*Gollancz, £14.99*). A journalist interviewing a schizophrenic serial killer hears how a pack of European werewolves headed west into South Dakota, circa 1880, with a wide-eyed, wolf-fancying governess in tow. This chunky tome aims to do for lycanthropy what *Interview with the Vampire* did for vampires, but Somtow, is labouring under a number of disadvantages, chief amongst which is that he is a plodding writer with a duff style and no sense of humour. He also has a fondness for bestial, bodice-ripping sex scenes, which reach their nadir when the governess screams, "Please sir, I am defenceless", at the wolf who is raping her. I must admit I have personal prejudices against werewolves; unlike vampires, they are messy creatures, not only making sausage-meat out of their victims, but also — according to this book — urinating all over the place to mark their territory. Music lovers may be amused at the idea of a frontier town named after a Schubert song-cycle ("Winter Eye"), and one admires Somtow's ambition, but readers with a hankering for horror in the old west would be better advised to seek out Cormac McCarthy's extraordinary *Blood Meridian*.

● **The Mammoth Book of Terror**, edited by Stephen Jones (*Robinson, £5.99*). Call me a yellow-bellied wimp, but Robinson's jacket illustrations are getting out of hand; this one is so vile I'm not sure I want to keep it in the house. For once, though, the contents live up to the cover; anyone subscribing to the less-is-more school of horror fiction should steer well clear of this collection. Graham Masterton's *Pig's Dinner*, for example, reads as if the author has set out to write the most repulsive story he can think of. However, the biscuit is definitely taken by F. Paul Wilson's *Buckets*, an anti-abortion tirade which manages to hack through all the complicated, sensitive issues involved to come up with something thoroughly offensive and objectionable, not to mention insulting to all the women who have ever been faced with that life-or-death choice.

● **Billy**, by Whitley Streiber (*Macdonald, £13.95*). Streiber's latest is described by its publishers as "Every parent's worst nightmare": a 12-year-old boy is abducted by a psychopath who gets his jollies from torturing small children to death. The tale is spun out in effective will-they-won't-they-get-there-in-time fashion, but in the end it is all rather sleazy and prurient, reminiscent of those true-life detective magazines in which real pain and terror are milked for cheap thrills. One would have to be pretty warped to enjoy this sort of thing, but it makes you think about your expectations of horror fiction, and about what constitutes poor taste in a genre packed with severed heads and exploding eyeballs.

Left on the old elf

FANTASY

Philippa Toomey

THOMAS THE RHYMER
By Ellen Kushner
Gollancz, £13.99

OUT of the night and the rain comes a tall hunchback to the lonely croft — a night when the hounds of hell are hunting, to the mind of Gavin, the crofter, who tells the first part of this story. What looked like a hunchback was a broken harp. The young man is given refuge by Gavin and his wife Meg. His name is Thomas, and he tells them stories of his wandering life as a harper. Ellen Kushner has discovered a new and poetic way to retell the old tale of Thomas the Rhymer, who was away for seven years, in Elfland. On the moor Thomas meets a beautiful woman, and goes with her to Elfland, as lover and prisoner.

Seven years pass, and he returns, still youthful, to Meg, and to his earthly lover, Elspeth, who both take up the story. He becomes a great and rich man, but with a final gift from the Queen. He is True Thomas — he must say what is true when questioned. There is yet one other gift the Queen promised — to be present at the hour of his death. The book reads with the story-telling power of the old ballad. In later life Thomas can still hear the horns of Elfland, faintly blowing.

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CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Sleepwalker goes nap for Academy Awards

Geoff Brown on *Awakenings, Coming Out, The Road Home* and *Blood Oath*

Hollywood's Department of Uplift and Tears is responsible for **Awakenings** (12, Odeon Leicester Square). You know the signs: a true story about human strife and optimism, designed to tug at the audience's heart; a fastidious visual surface; virtuoso acting from a major star; a clutch of Academy Award nominations. This is clearly Best Picture material; while Robert De Niro's meticulous performance as Leonard Lowe, a neurological patient variously afflicted with tics and catatonic trances, is an obvious contender for the actor's Oscar.

The film draws on Dr Oliver Sacks' experiences at a Brooklyn hospital in 1969, when he used an experimental drug, L-Dopo, to "reawaken" lingering victims of the sleeping sickness epidemic of the 1920s. It is a strange, touching story, which has already inspired plays (Harold Pinter's one-acter *A Kind of Alaska* among them) and television documentaries. A revised version of Yorkshire Television's 1974 programme, used as source material by the film-makers, is being screened on ITV tomorrow night.

To prevent the hospital drama becoming too downbeat, Robin Williams is cast as the Sacks figure — a shy, nervous doctor obsessed with penetrating the outward silence of his patients, lost in oblivion for decades. Hemmed in by a beard and an ungainly gait, Williams gives a delightful performance — far subtler than his likeable cartoon of an English teacher in *Dead Poets' Society*.

With Williams in place, comedy trips up the unwary spectator; while the saddening spectacle of Leonard's final decline is offset by the Uplift Department's life-affirming message. *Awakenings* teaches us to rejoice in the simple things: work, play, family, the daily round.

The film takes its director, Penny Marshall, on the same bold leap Jerry Zucker managed with *Ghost* last summer: from idle comedy to high-concept drama. She copes splendidly, steering the story through its fluctuating moods, while catching the eerie sense of patients trapped in a time-warp, waking into a foreign world of frisbees, lunar landings, and mini-skirts.

> *The film takes the same bold leap as Ghost: from idle comedy to high-concept drama*

Marshall avoids undue sentimentality, though she can do little about the script's fits of glibness. One minute Leonard and his fellow patients are statues; the next, they paint the town red. Hollywood characters clog the fringes: Penelope Ann Miller's hospital visitor, the brief object of Leonard's romantic affections; Julie Kavner's devoted nurse, waiting patiently for Williams to awaken himself and take their relationship beyond the professional.

But the film's core remains intact. De Niro charts with microscopic sensitivity both Leonard's delight in his new lease of life, and his agonised withdrawal; while the pain of family adjustment emerges in stage veteran Ruth Nelson's powerful performance as Leonard's mother. Glib, glossy moments aside, the Uplift and Tears boys have done their work well.

Coming Out (15, Metro), an East German drama about a homosexual high-school teacher, opened in Berlin on the day the Wall was breached, in November 1989. With its open criticism of the country's moral orthodoxy, one imagines the director to be a tousled, rebellious youth. Not so: Heiner Carow, now in his early sixties, is an East German veteran of 12 features (he is interviewed by David Robinson below).

Coming Out begins with a fine flourish. In a sky lit by exploding fireworks, an ambulance, with siren blazing, snakes through the night-time traffic: Philipp, the teacher, is being rushed to hospital after a suicide attempt. Sadly, Carow then changes gear: the film becomes a worthy trek through Philipp's tribulations.

After cultivating a girlfriend, the teacher becomes magnetised by an attractive youth. Fearing exposure at school, he lies to both partners; ultimately, he loses both. "I'm a teacher and I'm gay!" he moans. To Western audiences, the breast-beating will seem old-fashioned; but we are dealing here with a rigid society cocooned in time, almost like the patients in *Awakenings*.

The surface detail appears authentic enough. Carow took his cameras into boisterous gay haunts, and hired the clientele into playing small parts — like the old man with memories of Nazi persecution who tells the hero to stop snivelling. Yet Carow never articulates the dramatic conflicts with enough force to punch the film home for international audiences. *Coming Out* must be content with milksop words of praise: interesting, sensitive, decently acted.

None of the above applies to **The Road Home** (15, Cannon Panton Street), though Hugh Hudson's film — two years old and known in America as *Lost Angels* — deserves a corner in some Museum of Cinema Curios. So much self-conscious, self-defeating art went into this tale of a California juvenile in a psychiatric holding-pen for troublesome adolescents. Juan Ruiz-Anchia's camera feasts on grand vistas, burnished light, stylised backgrounds; while the script, by playwright Michael Weller, chops up the story into an aggravating patchwork, by turns cryptic and oblique. Even the music has ideas above its station: the theme tune is adapted, with acknowledgement, from Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius*.

All the while, the themes of the picture — the collapse of American middle-class family life, the misuse of mental institutions as dumping grounds for "rich-boy garbage", as the hospital cleaner puts it — fade further and further from view. Under Hudson's cold, calculating gaze, the dramatic possibilities flicker and die: characters become whittled down into ciphers or decorative props.

As the irresponsible young offender, Adam Horovitz (lead singer of the Beastie Boys rap group) spends most of his time preening in sullen self-pity. This may hugely advance his pin-up status, but it does nothing to make his character sympathetic. Among the adults, Donald Sutherland applies a few grace notes as the hospital shrink with emotional problems of his own, though he remains just a piece in the film's jigsaw. Five years after the debacle of *Revolution*, Hugh Hudson — a talented film-maker, but one in serious need of a strong-armed producer — has still to get back on track.

A far bigger pin-up, *Neighbours* luminary Jason Donovan, makes his film debut in **Blood Oath** (15, Odeon Mezzanine), though if you doze off, or even blink, you might miss his single line of dialogue as a young, kindly soldier. Most of the time, the screen is filled with Bryan Brown, wrinkling his forehead and thrusting forth his chin as a tough Australian officer in 1946 prosecuting alleged Japanese war criminals over atrocities committed at an Indonesian POW camp. It is a forceful but wearisome performance in a monotonous film.

Blame the script for some of the sluggish pace. Dull words blunt the edge of the trial's twists and turns, and the underlying conflict between justice and political expediency. (The Americans wish to soft-pedal the affair, to enhance their control over Japan's reconstruction.) Blame, too, the studio look of the Indonesian setting instead of flesh-and-blood people in a story ripped from history's headlines, we seem to be watching movie puppets, plodding through an old, dog-eared drama.

John Polson etches a memorable cameo as a ravaged ex-prisoner, living witness to Japanese brutalities; Toshi Shioya briefly touches the heart as an anguished lieutenant, the trial's scapegoat. But the film, directed by Stephen Wallace, remains obstinately stuck in its rut.

Virtuoso patient and delightful doctor: Robert De Niro with Robin Williams in Penny Marshall's *Awakenings*

Enigmatic

Lady Helen Windsor in the April

TATLER

CINEMA: INTERVIEW

Freedom of expression goes with the territory

David Robinson meets Heiner Carow, director of the first (and last) East German film with a homosexual subject

The premiere of *Coming Out* (see Geoff Brown's review, above) took place in East Berlin on November 9, 1989: the night the Wall was breached. "Though in fact we knew nothing about all that at the time," recalls the director, Heiner Carow. "We were too caught up with the premiere.

"It was only afterwards, when we went on to a party in the gay locale that figures in the film, that we realised something was happening. To be truthful, we weren't exactly thrilled by it all, because we felt that it was going to mean disaster for the film — no-one would be interested in movies now. Amazingly, it turned out exactly the contrary. The cinema was sold out for 13 weeks.

"The film turned out to have an incredible political impact. People saw it as symbolic. This particular taboo had been broken down: now all the other taboos could go. Every man and every woman in this country needed a kind of 'coming out'."

For 40 years homosexuality was no subject for discussion in the old socialist countries. Such aberrations were strictly the problem of the decadent West. "Of course they knew what was happening, but they did not want to show it. In this purified socialist society there were only heroic people. There were no human flaws."

Censorship had eased a good deal even before November 1989 — but not, it seemed, in this delicate area. "Two or three years earlier we had wanted to show a homosexual man as an incidental character in a film, and it was totally banned. This was really the reason we set about this script.

"When we did at last take it to the director-general of DEFA [the old East German state production company], he said that there was no way he would let this film be made in his studios. But we had taken the precaution of consulting a legal expert. We collected evidence about the way that communists and homosexuals had suffered side by side in the Nazi concentration camps. We talked to people who have fought for the abolition of Paragraph 175, which condemns homosexuals.

"We also collected a lot of evidence to show how common in East Germany are suicides among youngsters of 16 or so who discover that they are homosexual, tell their parents, and are thereupon turned out of their homes.

"So we took the script and this dossier of expert opinion to the Academy of Arts. The Academy ruled that there were no grounds for refusing the script, and so we finally got permission. By the way, the director-general left.

"When they actually saw the finished film, the board were embarrassed — simply because they had had no idea what was happening, but had thought the worst, that it would be prurient."

Far from being prurient, *Coming Out* is an unusually compassionate and understanding dramatisation of the problems incidental to homosexual life. The hero is a young schoolteacher, fearful that his sexual and emotional orientation may exclude him from a job that he performs responsibly and well.

Quite apart from the script, the film has documentary value. It was shot in the bars and other rendezvous of Berlin's gay milieu — clandestine places under the old regime.

Playing homosexual roles was a new experience for East German actors. "We were afraid that the boys might have trouble after the film. None of the actors feared that it would affect them professionally, but they were afraid they might get beaten up in the S-Bahn.

"This didn't happen at all. On the contrary people left flowers outside their flats; and they found that strange women would rush up and kiss them in the street."

The film's success in the West was guaranteed when it won the Silver Bear at the 1990 Berlin Film Festival. "Since then I've been to many countries with the film, and my experience is that wherever you go people and the situation are the same.

"In Los Angeles I took part in the Gay Pride parade. Everybody was cheering and it gave a fantastic feeling of liberation. So I was surprised by the interviews that followed. They explained that in Hollywood, if anyone gets wind that an actor is gay, he is finished. Mankind is very much alike under the skin, whatever country."

Even though the international success of *Coming Out* has helped rather than harmed Carow's own career, he finds himself in the same precarious situation as most employees of the formerly state-supported East European cinemas. "I have worked for DEFA for 40 years, but with effect from March 31 I was fired, along with 1,200 people. On December 10 I began my last film for DEFA, which is also DEFA's last film.

"Nobody knows what happens next. People hope that the studios can be sold as a going concern, for Western companies to rent; but I do not know if there will be enough work to keep it going."

Matthias Friehof and Dirk Kummer in *Coming Out*

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CLASSICAL MUSIC

Venerable band is young at heart

A British visit by the 'world's oldest' orchestra is welcomed by Hilary Finch

Scandinavia and the Soviet Union have never been so close, musically at least. With such conductors as Mariss Jansons at Oslo, Alexander Dmitriev at Stavanger, and now Dmitri Kitaenko appointed as musical director of the Bergen Philharmonic, three of Norway's four orchestras find themselves under Soviet rule.

Kitaenko's appointment at Bergen is a symptom of the changing image of Scandinavian orchestras, which has led to the Bergen Philharmonic's ten-day British tour. When Bergen was Norway's premier city, in the mid-18th century, the orchestra was the nation's number one as well. Forget about Oslo: the *Harmonie*, as the band was originally called, was giving concerts before Haydn had even taken up his position at Esterháza. Forget about Leipzig, too. Founded in 1765, the Bergen Philharmonic is still trying to persuade the *Guinness Book of Records* that, at the age of 225, it is the oldest orchestra in *continuous* existence in the world.

This continuity grew out of the orchestra's firm rooting not in church or court, but in the patronage of the mercantile middle classes of this flourishing Hansa port. In modern times, the orchestra has been the beneficiary of almost total public subsidy.

But this typically Scandinavian system of total patronage has made for a certain insularity. Marketing has fallen behind, and only now is the orchestra seeking private sponsorship for large recording projects and foreign tours.

This is only its second visit to England — the first was in 1972 — and it comes at a time of high morale. The orchestra has a new recording contract with Virgin (the first disc, of Grieg and Liszt piano concertos with Leif-Ove Andsnes, is in the Norwegian pop charts). There is delight, too, in its new conductor.

Leningrad-born Kitaenko, principal conductor of the Moscow Philharmonic until last October, had worked with the orchestra for ten years. He was clearly the players' choice to succeed Aldo Ceccato as principal conductor: they warm to the patience and humour of this meticulous trainer. He, in turn, admires the brightness and malleability of string playing nurtured by his predecessor.

David Stewart, the orchestra's Canadian leader, confirms Kitaenko's effect. "We've come a long way quickly. There's already a greater variety of timbre, sharper articulation.

"Scandinavian orchestras," comments Stewart, "have tended to follow the German tradition of 19th-century orchestral playing: ponderous, with heavy vibrato and full tone. Kitaenko's Tchaikovsky [the Fourth Symphony is in the tour repertoire] is lean, classical, with fast speeds. Maybe it's a survival tactic: when you've played Tchaikovsky as often as he did in Moscow, you simply can't treat each symphony as if it were late Beethoven!"

The refreshingly uncynical enthusiasm of the Bergen players spins off into a variety of extra-curricular activities: chamber groups, ad hoc café ensembles and 20th-century ensembles flourish. However, the orchestra's subsidy apparently does not yet allow for the commissioning of new music. But the British tour will include something written since Grieg. Harald Saeverud, the 92-year-old grand old man of Norwegian music, is still voluble about his short, chamber-orchestral *Ballad of Revolts* which will act as curtain-raiser. It was written in 1943, during the German occupation, and its angular, abrasively orchestrated theme is almost a second national anthem: "Yes, yes. They are still hammering my theme into the mountains . . ."

● *The Bergen Philharmonic tour begins in Middlesbrough tomorrow, and continues to Inverness, Newcastle, Eastbourne, Huddersfield, Leeds and Northampton, with the Barbican, London, next Thursday.*

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Sexual honesty still shocks

THEATRE

Lulu
Almeida

HERR and Frau Wedekind showed foresight when they christened their son Benjamin Franklin. He saw drama as a lightning rod down which it was his destiny to direct high-voltage shocks at audiences he thought narrow, smug and, above all, hypocritical about their animal selves. Unsurprisingly, his contemporaries thought *Earth Spirit* and *Pandora's Box* dangerous stuff. Even now the squeamish may sometimes wince from the fusion of the two plays so strongly performed at the Almeida. How many of *our* contemporaries are comparably honest about sex?

Lulu is a casually voracious Eliza Doolittle, a flower-seller tutored in love by the Berlin magnate, Schön. He marries her to two successive husbands, only for one to expire of a heart-attack when he catches her in the opening moments of *flagrante delicto*, and for the other to cut his throat when he hears evidence of her spiralling infidelities. Her next victim is Schön himself, manipulated into marriage by Lulu, then shot by her when he attacks her in an ecstasy of humiliation.

That is only the first half. The second sees her escaping from prison to the Paris *demi-monde*, and then to London, where her prey include a circus acrobat, a lesbian countess, and Schön's own son. Not until she turns to prostitution, and Jack the Ripper makes a dramatic intervention, does her magnetic pull end. Up to then, other people might be waves and she the moon, for all the hope they have of resisting her.

The role asks an actress to exude — no, ooze sexuality. This Joanne Whalley Kilmer proceeds to do with no great appearance of effort. True, she licks her lips with her tongue, swivels her hips, makes little beckoning signs to likely lads, and does other seductive things; but, really, her natural charisma is enough. Indeed, there is at times something chilling about the offhandedness, the detachment she brings to the part.

"Why don't we just get a divorce?" she asks demurely as Ian McDiarmid's Schön rampages dementedly around, brandishing his revolver. "Isn't this the very spot where your father bled to death?" she asks his son in a tone of earnest enquiry when they meet in the same room. Only when people try to impose their wills on her does the calm control crack. As she says, desperately meaning it, her sexuality "is the only thing I've ever owned". Mostly, Whalley Kilmer's *Lulu* has the integrity, the disinterested power of some natural force: wind, lightning, the moon itself.

Others may feel that this smacks of sexism or even misogyny. But there is no resentment, pique or condescension in Wedekind's writing. What makes the play disconcerting is not just his candour but the fatalism with which he thinks of sex. We are trapped by instinct. All we can do is hope that maybe this time the result will not be ruin.

McDiarmid's production comes with a striking if sometimes unwieldy set by Maria Bjørnson: slowly deteriorating red plush seats which encircle what at first looks like decor from some giant toy theatre, but, as Lulu declines, becomes dour grey floorboards and walls. There is equal purpose to the performances, above all the director's own. When we meet this dry, debonair ironist, fully in command of his life, it is hard to believe he could deteriorate into the monomaniac who, yellow cheeks seeping sweat, screeches "fffffilth" at his wife like a distraught jungle creature; but McDiarmid charts the process as precisely as the text allows.

There are also good moments from David King, Larry Lamb and, though she cannot make the lesbian countess the tragic figure Wedekind wanted, a still, white-faced Belinda Lang. But why does Philip Locke, playing Lulu's seedy father, neglect the incestuous emotions surely written into the role? With Wedekind, sex transcended every moral boundary.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DONALD COOPER

Effortless in her sexuality: Joanne Whalley Kilmer as *Lulu*

CONCERT

BBC SO/Wigglesworth
Barbican

PROBABLY the most difficult of all Wagnerian extracts to bring off in the concert hall is the Prelude to *Parsifal*. Written specifically for the unique Festspielhaus at Bayreuth, its quavering, questing opening melody and shimmering orchestral textures emerge from the "mystic abyss" of the pit there to unforgettable effect. In the relatively unyielding acoustic of the Barbican, the conductor and orchestra have to exercise inordinate imagination to achieve remotely comparable results.

In the second of his two concerts with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the rising young star Mark Wigglesworth impressively secured that indefinable air, at once ascetic but throbbing with quelled sensuality that anyone who has ever fallen under the spell of *Parsifal* will recognise.

Howard Skempton's *Lento*, commissioned by the BBC and receiving its world premiere, was consciously scored for the same forces as the Wagner, and it is, similarly, a slow, sustained piece of writing lasting just under a quarter of an hour. Skempton is an adherent of the "experimentalist" school of English composers, but in this case the experimentation does not take him far beyond the modal-flavoured triadic juxtapositions of Vaughan Williams's "Tallis Fantasia". But for Skempton, musical materials are of little intrinsic importance; *it* is the manipulation that counts. Such a manifestation of post-modernism may be in tune with our drifting, desultory culture, but sandwiched between Wagner and Mahler its essential hollowness is difficult to take seriously.

In Deryck Cooke's performing version of Mahler's Tenth Symphony, Wigglesworth, conducting from memory, coaxed a passionate performance from his players, fully capturing the infinite sadness and final consolation of the last movement. Tempo changes were well integrated and tonal balances admirably realised. Wigglesworth is clearly a conductor of exceptional intelligence and musicality.

BARRY MILLINGTON

THEATRE

Lives of the Great Poisoners
Riverside Studios

SECOND Stride's latest (and perhaps last) work suffers from acute failure to make up its mind what it is doing. If the jolly music-hall parodies of the first part had been developed into a fuller account of Crippen's drastic way of coping with an unsatisfactory domestic life, that could have made an entertaining show. At the other end of the evening, a conversation between Mme de Brinvilliers and her lover Sainte-Croix about how and why they are poisoning each other might have provided material for a serious exploration of the nature of love.

But neither of these possibilities gets anywhere, lost in a morass of silly ideas and fancy theatrical posturing in different modes. As for the central section, it tells us little about Medea's way of addressing the problem of a rival for Jason's interest, and does not relate in any apparently relevant way to the rest.

The element linking these *Lives of the Great Poisoners* is the presence, as observer or as historical participant, of an American industrial scientist, Thomas Midgley, inventor of leaded petrol and discoverer of uses for CFCs. As good liberal thinkers, we are supposed to consider him the villain of the piece, but in Michael O'Connor's amiable performance he comes over as the only decent character.

Orlando Gough's music, rich in pastiche and parody, is intermittently entertaining. Caryl Churchill's text has a few neat one-liners but most of them are repeated to distraction.

Ian Spink's choreography offers one or two amusing moments, but when he actually puts in some dance steps they look irrelevant. Also, except for the under-used Michael Popper, the dancers are easily excelled by the guest actors and singers, even though these are mostly only variably successful. Second Stride, under notice to lose its Arts Council grant, thinks itself experimental, but what is there here which it has not done better in the past?

JOHN PERCIVAL

ROCK

Chris Isaak
Town and Country

HIS records may evoke images of tear-stained pillows and empty, windswept beaches, but Chris Isaak's stage show was a surprising bundle of laughs, thanks to a prominent streak of dry, lampooning wit that mostly surfaced between numbers. Isaak held court with a sure comic touch.

The relaxed assurance with which the band went about their business belied the pristine accuracy of the sound they created. Drummer Kenney Dale Johnson used his small, flat-looking kit to lend an old-fashioned swing to proceedings. Bassist Rowland Salley added a confident stride, while guitarist James Calvin Wilsey conjured a dolorous retro-twang, so fashionable in the post-*Twin Peaks* era, that flowed like warm treacle across the staves of the songs. The overall result was an exquisite, and by today's overblown standards, minimalist echo of Fifties rockabilly and Sixties surf, which underpinned perfectly the timeless appeal of Isaak's balladry.

Wearing a pink suit, a modest quiff and a big guitar, Isaak looked every inch the romantic young man in a state of perpetual emotional despair so often depicted in his songs. There was little chance of underestimating the man's hearthrob appeal.

His light, yodelling tenor, so reminiscent of Roy Orbison, embraced with ease the measured, swampy feel of "Dancin' ", the ghostly voodoo of "You Owe Me Some Kind of Love" and the melancholia of "Wicked Game", before the band cracked into the shuffling gait and aggressive, revving guitar of "Gone Ridin' " and "Wild Love". The delicate "Spanish Sky" added a more obvious country string to his bow, with saxophonist Johnny Reno.

There were several finales. After a thunderous Bo Diddley-style drum tattoo with Isaak assisting Johnson to batter his tom-toms, the first stretch of "encores" wound up with the stage being invaded by women from the audience, dancing madly under Isaak's direction. The final curtain fell after a rambling version of "Wild Thing". A grand entertainment, if something of a swizz for those who had come for a wallow in the woes of an anguished spirit.

DAVID SINCLAIR

NEW RELEASES

BERLIN JERUSALEM: Amos Gitai's stylised exploration of the Zionist dream: clever on paper, less rewarding on the screen.
ICA Cinema (071-930 3647).

FEAR (18): Demure Ally Sheedy as the lady in peril — a psychic with a gift for seeing brutal murders. Fair psychological chiller from writer-director Rockne O'Bannon.
Cannons: Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ THE GODFATHER PART III (15): Brooding finale to Francis Ford Coppola's Mafia saga, handsomely staged but lacking resonance. Al Pacino, Andy Garcia, Talia Shire.
Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636).
Empire (071-497 9999) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

CURRENT

AVALON (U): Engaging personal saga about immigrant experience and post-war breakup of family life, by *Rain Man* director Barry Levinson. Fine performances by Armin Mueller-Stahl, Joan Plowright.
Curzon Phoenix (071-240 9661) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366).

◆ BUDDY'S SONG (12): Roger Daltrey as an ageing pop musician whose tedious marital problems are resolved through the musical talents of his son. Director, Claude Whatham.
Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

C'EST LA VIE (12): Evocative autobiographical recollection by French director Diane Kurys: a childhood seaside holiday soured by marital breakup.
Barbican (071-638 8891) Premiere (071-439 4470).

CYRANO DE BERGERAC (U): Oscar nominee Gérard Depardieu masterful as the lovelorn, long-nosed Cyrano; director Jean-Paul Rappeneau transforms Rostand's play into magnificent, swashbuckling cinema.
Chelsea Cinema (071-351 3742) Lumière (071-836 0691) Renoir (071-837 8402).

◆ DANCES WITH WOLVES (12): Kevin Costner as the Civil War lieutenant sucked into the Sioux's way of life. Over-reverent, though Costner mounts his directorial debut with aplomb. Nominated for 12 Oscars.
Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) Odeon Marble Arch (071-723 2011) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324) Warner (071-439 0791).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country.

GREEN CARD (12): Marriage of convenience becomes unbearable when slobbish Gérard Depardieu moves in with uptight Andie MacDowell. Likeable New York romantic comedy; director, Peter Weir.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) West End (071-930 5252/7615) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ THE GRIFTERS (18): Stephen Frears' disjointed version of Jim Thompson's con-artist thriller. John Cusack, Anjelica Huston, Annette Bening, stranded in a glossy limbo.
Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Odeon Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Warner (071-439 0791).

MEET THE APPLEGATES (15): Insects in human form succumb to American vices. Lunatic satirical comedy from *Heathers* director Michael Lehmann. Ed Begley Jr, Stockard Channing.
Cannon Panton Street (071-930 0631).

METROPOLITAN (15): Whit Stillman's wickedly-ironic comedy of manners set among New York's debutantes and preppies. Witty dialogue, elegant direction. With Edward Clements, Carolyn Farina.
Cannon Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148).

MILLER'S CROSSING (18): Prohibition gang warfare from the brothers Coen: brooding, labyrinthine, over-laden with words and smart artifice. Gabriel Byrne, Albert Finney.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannons: Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Gate (071-727 4043).

MR AND MRS BRIDGE (PG): Eloquent portrait of an upper middle-class American marriage, from Evan S. Connell's novels. Joanne Woodward, Paul Newman; director, James Ivory
Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865).

THE NASTY GIRL (PG): Provocative, funny assault on Germany's Nazi past, with Lena Stolze as the girl uncovering her home town's shady history.
Minema (071-235 4225) Premiere (071-439 4470) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772).

◆ PACIFIC HEIGHTS (15): Evil tenant Michael Keaton makes life hell for landlords Matthew Modine and Melanie Griffith. Strenuous, implausible thriller; director, John Schlesinger.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Haymarket (071-839 7697) Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE (15): Caustic Tinseltown comedy, with a few tears, from Carrie Fisher's novel. Meryl Streep as the drug-abused actress, Shirley MacLaine as her mother. Director, Mike Nichols.
Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ THE RUSSIA HOUSE (15): Serpentine spy games with Sean Connery and Michelle Pfeiffer. Muted thriller from John Le Carré's novel; director, Fred Schepisi.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) Plaza (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

THE SHELTERING SKY (18): A chilling novel (by Paul Bowles) filmed with a warming visual sweep by Bernardo Bertolucci. With John Malkovich and Debra Winger.
Plaza (071-497 9999).

◆ THREE MEN AND A LITTLE LADY (PG): Horrendous sequel to *Three Men and a Baby*, piled high with archaic comedy wheezes. Director, Emile Ardolino.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Leicester Square (071-930 6111) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

TILAI (PG): Formidably beautiful African tale of love versus village traditions from Idrissa Ouedraogo, director of *Yaaba*.
Metro (071-437 0757) Renoir (071-837 8402).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

■ House full, returns only
▨ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR: Ayckbourn's sublimely dark farce, set on three Christmas Eves. Last week.
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (071-867 1119). Underground: Charing Cross. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4.30pm.

☐ THE BATTLE OF AUGHRIM: Intriguing 18th-century heroic tragedy as performed by 19th-century Thespians. London-Irish arts festival production.
Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, London SW11 (071-223 2223). British Rail: Clapham Junction. Tonight-Sun, 8pm.

☐ CROMWELL: Imaginative staging of Brendan Kennelly's poem sequence on Anglo-Irish violence: 80 minutes of dense, vivid imagery. Last week.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (081-743 3388). Underground: Shepherds Bush. Mon-Sat, 8pm. Running time: 1hr 15mins.

■ FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE: Marvellous jazzy revue packed with Louis Jordan numbers. An evening of joy.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 3686). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm. Running time: 1hr 45mins.

☐ THE FROGS: Spirited and funny pop version of Aristophanes, performed by the London Small Theatre Company who also offer a surprisingly poor *Electra*.
Shaw, 100 Euston Road, NW1 (071-388 1394). Underground: Euston/King's Cross. *Frogs*: 2pm and 9pm; *Electra*: 12pm and 7pm. Closes Saturday.

▨ 42ND STREET: Irresistible tap-dancing novice-to-star musical back in town to give everyone a tonic.
Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-580 9562). Underground: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins. Closes April 20.

☐ HIDDEN LAUGHTER: Emotional hangups, mental breakup and Peter Barkworth in Simon Gray's patchy drama.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Underground: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins. Closes March 23.

▨ THE HOMECOMING: Warren Mitchell and others seducing and seduced by Cherie Lunghi in Peter Hall's Pinter revival.
Comedy, Panton Street, W1 (071-867 1045). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins.

☐ THE KING AND I: Susan Hampshire and Koshiro Matsumoto IX in old-fashioned show, packed with a wealth of hit songs.
Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916). Underground: Angel. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 50mins. Closes March 30.

■ LULU: The charismatic Joanne Whalley Kilmer as Wedekind's voracious sex goddess littering the salons of Europe with corpses: fine production of a masterwork.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404). Underground: Highbury & Islington. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3.30pm. Running time: 3hrs. Closes April 20.

☐ OUT OF ORDER: Donald Sinden puffs, Michael Williams panics, in latest Ray Cooney farce: over-plotted, under-developed. Last week.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Underground: Holborn. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins.

☐ THE REHEARSAL: Ian McDiarmid's stylish production (costumes by Jasper Conran) of Anouilh's seduction play.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-379 6107). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Tues, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

☐ THE RISING OF THE MOON: Excellently-acted first play by James Doherty: survivors of a Glasgow-Irish childhood fight over their past.
Old Red Lion, 418 St John Street, EC1 (071-837 7816). Underground: Angel. Tues-Sun, 8pm. Running time: 2hrs 5mins. Closes March 23.

☐ THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW: Raucous and wild, bold and brassy, deafening, sometimes inaudible rock musical.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 7pm and 9.15pm. Running time: 1hr 30mins.

■ SILLY COW: Ben Elton's awkward collection of one-liners, centred around Dawn French as a ghoulish tabloid journo.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 5.30pm and 8.45pm. Running time: 2hrs 10mins.

▨ TIMON OF ATHENS: David Suchet suave and sulphurous in a modern-dress production by Trevor Nunn that enlivens Shakespeare's blank spots.
Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6363). Underground: Waterloo. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, 1.30pm. Running time: 3hrs 15mins. Closes April 20.

■ THE TRIAL: Antony Sher's powerfully restrained hero is truer to Kafka than what surrounds him in Berkoff's lurid production.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 2252). Underground/BR: Waterloo. Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.15pm. Running time: 3hrs.

▨ TWELFTH NIGHT: Peter Hall's production stresses comedy and motive; with Eric Porter, Dinsdale Landen, David Ryall.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-839 4401). Underground: Embankment. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm. Running time: 2hrs 40mins.

☐ THE WINTER WIFE: Eloquent, absorbing glimpse of Katherine Mansfield, convalescing on the Riviera in 1922, tormenting the woman who loves her.
Lyric Hammersmith, King Street, W6 (081-741 2311). Underground: Hammersmith. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins. Closes Saturday.

LONG RUNNERS: ▨ Aspects of Love: Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) . . . ☐ Blood Brothers: Albery (071-867 1115) . . . ▨ Buddy: Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . . . ▨ Cats: New London (071-405 0072) . . . ☐ Me and My Girl: Adelphi (071-836 7611) . . . ■ Les Misérables: Palace (071-434 0909) . . . ■ Miss Saigon: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-836 8108) . . . ☐ The Mousetrap: St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . . ■ The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's (071-839 2244) . . . ☐ Return to the Forbidden Planet: Cambridge (071-379 5299) . . . ☐ Run For Your Wife: Duchess (071-836 8243) . . . ☐ Shirley Valentine: Duke of York's (071-836 5122) . . . ☐ A Slice of Saturday Night: Arts (071-836 2132) . . . ☐ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . . ☐ The Woman in Black: Fortune (071-836 2238).

Ticket information on member theatres supplied by Society of West End Theatre

TODAY'S EVENTS

GREAT IMPRESSIONISTS AND OTHER MASTER PAINTINGS: Few private collections put together so recently can match the wonders of the Emil G. Bührle Collection of Zurich. The present loan is not to be missed by anyone interested in famous impressionists, important German moderns, or just superlative painting of any era.
Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-439 7438), 10am-6pm, closes April 14.

SUB-CONTINENTAL: The centuries in which the British Raj dominated India contained innumerable mutual misunderstandings as well as many fruitful interchanges. *The Raj* tells the story through a fascinating array of portraits, documents, furnishings and such.
National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, WC2 (071-306 0055), 10am-5pm, closes Sunday.

SALOME: English National Opera revival of the Joachim Herz production of Richard Strauss's biblical opera. American soprano Kristine Ciesinski plays the central role, alongside Alan Woodrow as Herod and Dmitri Kharitonov as Jokanaan. Richard Armstrong conducts. First night.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), 8pm.

SAMSON ET DALILA: Jacques Delacôte conducts the last performance this season of Saint-Saëns's opera, with American tenor Michael Sylvester and British mezzo Claire Powell in the leading roles.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066/1911), 7.30pm.

LONDON MOZART PLAYERS: Norman del Mar conducts the penultimate concert in the Mozart Explored series which tonight concentrates on Mozart's last three symphonies: Nos 39 (K543), 40 (K550) and 41 (K551), "Jupiter".
St David's Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff (0222 371236/235900), 7.30pm.

THE PHILHARMONIA: Yevgeny Svetlanov gives the second of two concerts with the Philharmonia conducting an all-Russian programme comprising Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto (with soloist Ida Haendel), entr'acte from Mussorgsky's *Khovanshchina* and Kalinnikov's Symphony No 1.
Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), 7.30pm.

JASON REBELLO: Not yet the titan depicted in the magazines, but still an outstanding prospect for the future, the 21-year-old pianist heads a tenor-and-guitar fusion line-up.
Poole Arts Centre, Kingland Road, Poole (0202 685222), 8pm.

TOWN AND COUNTRY: A new two-act work by choreographer Matthew Bourne for Adventures in Motion Pictures, coupled with a revival of *Spitfire*: a spoof quartet for men in underwear.
Arnolfini Gallery, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol (0272 299191), 8pm.

JASHAN-E-BAHAR: The festival of arts and music from Pakistan highlights the extraordinary vocal talents of Abida Parveen, who crosses the boundaries between Sufi and folk styles.
Hackney Empire, Mare Street, London E8 (081-985 2424), 8pm.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

YITE
(c) The yellow-hammer, *Emberiza citrinella*, orig. obsc.: "I have known a black-fishing expedition stopped because a yellow yite hovered round the gang when they were *setting out*."

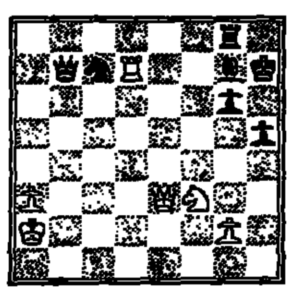
GYTRASH
(a) Northern dialect, an apparition, spectre, ghost, generally taking the form of an animal; *Jane Eyre*: "A gytrash, which in the form of horse, mule or large dog, haunted solitary ways, and sometimes came upon belated travellers."

PLORE
(b) A museum exhibit that demonstrates some scientific principle in action, invented by Professor Richard Gregory to describe the exhibits in his Exploratory, an innovative museum opened in Bristol in 1987. From *explore*: "One of the most fascinating plores is a glass globe containing rare gases at low pressure."

GUMPHION
(a) A funeral banner, a Scottish corruption of *gonfalon* or *gonfanon*; *Guy Mannering*: "Gumphions of tarnished white crape."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



This position is from the game Weichert — Neye, Furstenwalde 1937. White to play and win. Solution tomorrow.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1 ... Rxh3+! 2 gxh3 Bf3+ 3 Kh2 Ng4+! 4 hxg4 h5! and the opening of the h-file leads to mate.

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 071 836 3161 cc 071 240 5258 cc 1st Call 071 240 7200 (24hr / 7 day) 071 379 4444
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Ton't 8.00 SALOME
Tomor 7.30 LEAR

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 081 741 2311 (24hrs/no bkg fee) 071 836 3464. 20-30 Mar only!
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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 071 240 1066 / 1911. Standby info 836 6903.S CC 65 amphi seats avail on the day.
THE ROYAL OPERA
Ton't 7.30 Samson et Dalila
Tomor 7.30
Il Barbiere di Siviglia

THEATRES

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THE KING AND I
"MAGIC" D. Mail
"SUMPTUOUS" Times
"ELEGANT" D.Exp
Eves 7.30, Wed & Sat mats 2.30
GROUP SALES 071 930 6123
cc 793 1000/379 4444
LAST 20 PERFORMANCES!

SHAFTESBURY 071-379 5399 cc 071-379 4444/071-793 1000(no bkg fee) 071-497 9977(bkg Fee) Groups 071-930 6123
Nominated Olivier Award
COMEDY OF THE YEAR
DONALD SINDEN
MICHAEL WILLIAMS in
RAY COONEY'S
"HUGELY FUNNY" (D.Tel)
OUT OF ORDER
"A TRIUMPH" (F.Times)
8.00 nightly Sats 5.30 & 8.30 Wed mat 2.30
FINAL WEEK OF SHAFTESBURY SEASON

SHAFTESBURY cc 071-379 5399 cc (no bkg fee) 071-379 4444 /497 9977/793 1000 Group Sales 071 930 6123
PETER O'TOOLE
in "THE COMEDY OF THE YEAR" E. Std
JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL
by Keith Waterhouse
directed by Ned Sherrin
Evgs 8.30pm, Sat 5 & 8.30pm
FROM 20 MAR LIMITED SEASON 10 WEEKS ONLY!

ST MARTIN'S 071-836 1443. Special CC No. 379 4444. Evgs 8.0 Tues 2.45. Sat 5.0 and 8.0 39th Year of Agatha Christie's THE MOUSETRAP

STRAND BO & CC 071 240 0300 CC (Bkg Fee) 071 497 9977/071 379 4444/071 793 1000
DAVE ALLEN
"Wicked, Incisive" The People
"Outrageously enjoyable" D.Exp
Season extended to 4 May
Monday - Saturday 8pm

VAUDEVILLE BO & CC 071 836 9987 cc 071 793 1000 (no fee) & 24 hr cc 836 2428 / 379 4444 (bkg fee) Mon-Fri Evgs 7.45 Mats Wed 3.0 Sats 5.0 & 8.30
HANNAH GORDON
PETER BARKWORTH
KEVIN McNALLY in
HIDDEN LAUGHTER
"SIMON GRAY'S BEST PLAY FOR YEARS" D Telegraph
LAST 2 WEEKS ENDS MARCH 23
OPENS APRIL 16 FOR 8 WEEKS
MAUREEN LIPMAN in RE: JOYCE!

VAUDEVILLE BO & CC 071-836 9987 CC (no bkg fee) 379 4444/793 1000 CC (bkg fee) 836 2428
KIT & THE WIDOW
Lavishly Misused!
From March 25 for 3 weeks only.
Mon-Thu 8pm.
Fri & Sat 6pm & 8.40

VICTORIA PALACE 071-834 1317 CC 071-379 - 4444/240 7200 071-793 1000 (bkg fee) Groups 071 930 6123
BUDDY
The Buddy Holly Story
"BRILLIANT" Sun
"SHEER UNADULTERATED FUN..."
I LOVE THIS SHOW" Sun Exp.
"WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel
Mon-Thurs 8.00 Fri & Sat 5.30 & 8.30. ALL SEATS ½ PRICE FRIDAY 5.30 PERF
2nd SENSATIONAL YEAR
NOW BOOKING TO SEPTEMBER 28

WHITEHALL BO & cc (no fee) 867 1119 cc 867 1111/379 4444 (no fee) 497 9977/793 1000
ALAN AYCKBOURN'S
ACHINGLY FUNNY Tms
ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR
"leaves the viewer weak with laughter and admiration" D Tel
"I CHALLENGE ANYONE NOT TO LAUGH OUT LOUD" Today
Eves 8 Mats Thurs 3 Sat at 4.30
LAST WEEK!!

WHITEHALL 867 1119 cc 867 1111 379 4444 (no bkg fee) 793 1000 (bkg fee)
Previews from March 27
OPENS APRIL 10 AT 7.00
LESLIE GRANTHAM IN RICK'S BAR CASABLANCA
the original play by Murray Burnett and Joan Alison
Evgs 8.00. Sats 6.00 & 8.45
Mats Thurs 3.00

WYNDHAMS 071 867 1116 CC 071 379 4444/793 1000 (No Fee) & 24hr CC 836 2428 (Bkg Fee)
SHEILA GISH
CLIVE FRANCIS
JOSEPH MAHER in
WHAT THE BUTLER SAW
by JOE ORTON
"RIOTOUSLY FUNNY" D Tel
Evgs 8.00 Fri & Sats 6.00 & 8.40

ART GALLERIES

ROY MILES GALLERY 29, Bruton St. W1. 071-495 4747
BRITISH MONTH
300 Paintings on View
Mon-Fri 10-6. Sats 10-1.

WILDENSTEIN, 147 New Bond Street, W1. "Venus & Cupid" Exhibition of paintings & drawings from 16th-19th Century, incl. works by Boucher, Fragonard, Goya, etc. Until 28 Mar. Mon-Fri 10-5.30. Tel: 071 629 0602.

NEW GRAFTON GALLERY
49 Church Road, Barnes SW13
081-748 8850
TOM COATES
Recent Work
Until April 6

CINEMAS

CURZON MAYFAIR Curzon St 071 465 8865 Paul Newman Joanne Woodward in Merchant Ivory's MR AND MRS BRIDGE (PG) Progs at 1.00 (not Sun) 3.30 6.00 8.40

CURZON PHOENIX Phoenix St. off Charing Cross Rd 071 240 9661 Elizabeth Perkins Joan Plowright in Barry Levinson's AVALON (U) Progs at 12.37 (not Sun) 3.05 5.40 8.15

CURZON WEST END Shaftesbury Avenue W1 071 439 4805. Richard Harris John Hurt Tom Berenger in THE FIELD (12) Progs at 1.30 (not Sun) 3.50 6.10 8.30

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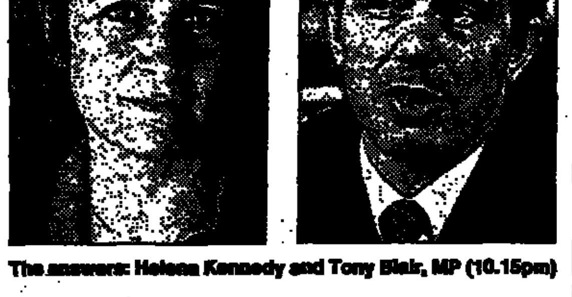
BBC 1

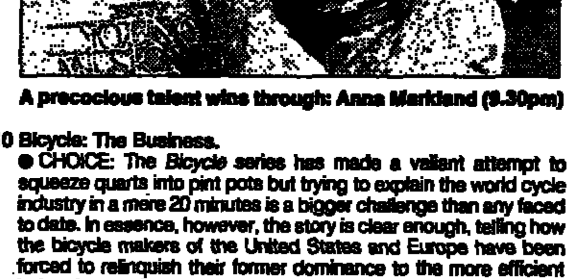
6.00 Ceefax
6.30 Breakfast News
9.15 Daytime UK begins with Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk hosts a discussion on Germany 9.55 Regional news and weather
10.00 News 10.05 Playdays. Children's series, this morning coming from Cornwall 10.25 The Family-Ness. Cartoon adventures of the Loch creatures 10.35 She's The Sheriff. American sitcom (r)
11.00 News and weather 11.05 People Today. A look at the lives of people across the UK. Includes *Open Line*
12.00 News and weather 12.05 Rosemary Conley's Diet and Fitness Club. Keep fit series 12.20 Scene Today. Live entertainment from Pebble Mill 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax)
1.50 Cheltenham Festival. Julian Wilson introduces live coverage of the Daily Express Triumph hurdle (2.15); the Christie's Foxhunter chase (2.50); and the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup (3.30). The 4.05 race is covered on BBC2
3.50 Dooby's Duck Truck. Cartoon series 3.55 Gordon the Gopher. This week the hand puppet and its sidekick Phillip Schofield send up *Hamlet* 4.05 Jimbo and the Jet Set. Animated aeronautical adventures 4.10 Jackanory. Tim McInnerny reads *Right Royal Kidnap*, a short story by Robert Leeson 4.20 Fantastic Max. Cartoon about a superhero toddler 4.35 Dizzy Heights. Children's puppet comedy set in a hotel (r)
5.00 Newsround 5.05 Blue Peter with Yvette Fielding, John Leslie and Diane-Louise Jordan. (Ceefax)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Top of the Pops introduced by Simon Mayo (simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1)
7.30 EastEnders. More domestic strife from the residents of Albert Square. (Ceefax)
8.00 Tomorrow's World. *The genial Bob Symes looks at the latest inventions with marketable potential, including paper bricks and a steam-powered car. Plus a Nasa report that shows how potted plants can purify the air and protect buildings.* With Judith Hann, Howard Stableford and Peter Macann
8.30 Doctor at the Top: The Kindest Cut. Weak medical sitcom with Robin Nedwell and George Layton, catching up with the characters of the Seventies comedy *Doctors on the Go*. In this episode, written by Bill Oddie, Duncan and Paul both decide to have vasectomies, but are jittery about the operation, especially as their old friend Dick will be wielding the scalpel. (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Spotlight
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather
9.30 Crimewatch UK. Sue Cook and Nick Ross invite viewers to help solve serious crimes. Tonight's reconstructed cases include the murders of taxi-driver Steve Johnson from Stoke-on-Trent and Manchester prostitute Maria Requina, who appeared in a BBC documentary about the dangers of street life only weeks before she was killed (Ceefax)
10.15 Question Time presided over by Peter Sissons. The guests include barrister and broadcaster Helena Kennedy, Lady Olga Maitland and the shadow employment spokesman Tony Blair, MP


The answers: Helena Kennedy and Tony Blair, MP (10.15pm)

11.15 World Figure Skating Championships. Barry Davies introduces the men's free programme and the original dance from Munich. The commentators are Alan Weeks and Christopher Dean
1.55 Crimewatch UK Update
2.05am Cheltenham Festival. Julian Wilson introduces highlights of the final day of the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival, featuring the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup
2.20 Weather

BBC 2

6.45 Open University: The Physics of Matter 7.10 Physical Chemistry
8.00 News 8.15 Westminster
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes
2.00 News and weather followed by You and Me (r) 2.15 Antiques Roadshow from Stafford (r). (Ceefax)
3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live 3.45 News, regional news and weather
3.55 Cheltenham Festival. The Ritz Club National Hunt chase (4.05)
4.20 Miniature Worlds. As autumn heralds decay for many trees and plants, three tree stumps are abundant with life in the form of mosses, fungi and stump-dwelling animals (r)
4.30 Fighting Talk. Bob Scott, the entrepreneur behind Manchester's unsuccessful bid to host the 1996 Olympic Games, blames London and the southeast for its lack of support
5.00 News headlines followed by Film 91 with Barry Norman (r)
5.30 The Vet. The second in the repeated series following a year in the life of Scottish vet George Rafferty (r)
6.00 Film: Tarzan and the Great River (1967). Mike Henry assumes the loin cloth and is transplanted from Africa to South America, where an evil tribal chieftain has revived the ancient cult of the leopard men. Directed by Robert Day. Wales: Film: East of Sumatra 7.20-7.50 City Lights
7.30 First Sight: Stansted — Take-off or Let-down? Tomorrow the Queen officially opens London's third international airport at Stansted. Jack Pizzey charts the airfield's history from US air force base to £400 million airport. Northern Ireland: The Brittas Empire; Wales 7.50-8.30 Statements; England: Midlands — Midlands Report; North, Northeast and Northwest: Close Up North; South: Southern Eye; Southwest: Western Approach; West: Current Account
8.00 City Lights: Scandal. Comedy starring Gerald Kelly as the Scottish bank clerk, Willie Melvin, aspiring to literary stardom and *the affections of Fiona, the manager's daughter*. (Ceefax)
8.30 Top Gear. William Woollard introduces the motoring show from the first RAC Historic Rally
9.00 *Red Dwarf IV. Sci-fi sitcom with Craig Charles and Chris Barrie* as space misfits who stumble into an almost identical parallel universe when they exceed the speed of reality. (Ceefax)
9.30 *40 Minutes: Our Brilliant Careers.*
● CHOICE: Peter Dale's film is a warning of what can happen to very gifted children in an educational system which seems ill *equipped* to deal with them. Weaving his narrative around half a dozen case histories, Dale gets his saddest story from Nick Hawksworth. At 12 Hawksworth was assessed as exceptionally clever, among the top 1 per cent in the country. But he was bored at school and failed to achieve his potential. He joined the Royal Marines but left before his time and after 25 jobs now drives a delivery van. Christopher Alcock, who is nine but has the brains of a 15-year-old, was taken out of his school and is being taught at home by his mother. But with the right encouragement, the early promise can be fulfilled. Anna Markland was a gifted pianist at six and 12 years later, with the help of her family and dedicated teachers, won the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition. (Ceefax)


A precocious talent wins through: Anna Markland (9.30pm)

10.10 Bicycle: The Business.
● CHOICE: The *Bicycle* series has made a valiant attempt to squeeze quarts into pint pots but trying to explain the world cycle industry in a mere 20 minutes is a bigger challenge than any faced to date. In essence, however, the story is clear enough, telling how the bicycle makers of the United States and Europe have been forced to relinquish their former dominance to the more efficient industries of the east. Japan, Taiwan and China are the new bicycle giants, with China turning out 40 million machines a year. But the west is striking back. The proud name of Raleigh has been revived under an international holding company. Peugeot is on the rise again and the American Schwinn company had sensibly moved production to low-cost areas such as Hungary and China. (Ceefax)
10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow
11.15 The Late Show. Includes an item on Canary Wharf and music from rock band REM 11.55 Weather
12.00 Weekend Outlook. A preview of Open University programmes
12.05am Open University: Technology — Eureka! Ends at 12.35

ITV

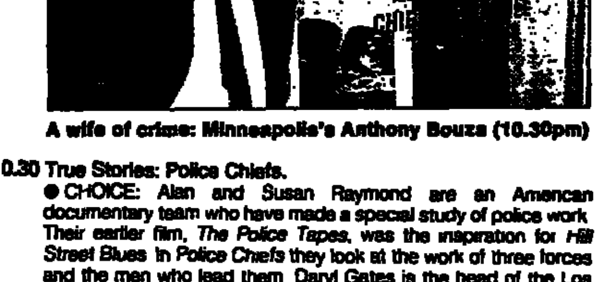
6.00 TV-am
9.25 Lucky Ladders presented by Lennie Bennett 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time . . . The Place . . . John Stapleton chairs a discussion on a topical subject
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine series
12.05 The Riddlers. For young children 12.25 Thames News and weather
12.30 News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather
1.20 Home and Away. Drama about an Australian couple and their foster children 1.50 A Country Practice. Australian soap set in a rural health centre
2.20 TV Weekly. Anne Diamond and Barry Took take a look behind the scenes of favourite ITV programmes 2.50 Jumble. Another round of the crossword game show hosted by Jeff Stevenson
3.15 News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 The Young Doctors
3.55 Owl TV. Includes a report from down under on dingos, plus a look at the meadow ant and one of the largest collections of tortoises in Britain 4.20 Warner Brothers Cartoon 4.30 Spatz. Children's drama set in a fast food restaurant
5.00 Blockbusters. Bob Holness hosts the general knowledge quiz for teenagers
5.30 News with Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle) Weather
5.55 Find a Family. Bruce Welch introduces David to the public
6.00 Home And Away (r)
6.30 Thames News and weather
7.00 Emmerdale. Agricultural soap set in the Yorkshire Dales (Oracle)
7.30 Jimmy's. Fly-on-the-wall look at the work of the staff and the problems of patients at St James's Hospital in Leeds

Building a murder investigation: Carolyn Pickles (8.00pm)

8.00 The Bill: Just Deserts. Incisive law and order drama set in a frenetic suburban police station. A fatal fall on a building site seems to be no more than a tragic accident. But DCI Reid (Carolyn Pickles), a newish character who has yet to make her mark on the series, digs deeper and starts a murder investigation. (Oracle)
8.30 This Week: Revolution in the Ranks? Can President Gorbachev rely on the loyalty of his troops if he chooses to use them in his struggle to hold the Soviet Union together?
9.00 The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes: The Boscombe Valley Mystery. Baker Street's famous sleuth, superbly played by Jeremy Brett, receives a telegram from a young woman about the murder of a farmer. The dead man's son, James, has been charged with the crime and the local police see it as an open and shut case. But for Alice Turner, the sender of the telegram, the matter is not a murder but a mystery. Another polished entry to Granada Television's long-running Holmes series, with the usual pleasures of landscape and period reconstruction and a script, by the reliable John Hawkesworth, that respects the original story and resists the temptation to send it up. With Edward Hardwicke as Dr Watson
10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald and Julia Somerville. (Oracle) Weather 10.30 Thames News and weather
10.40 The City Programme. An assessment of the content of Norman Lamont's first budget on Tuesday
11.10 01. Dr Miriam Stoppard reviews *Awakenings*, there is music by George Michael and three bands — Galliano, Incognito and Young Disciples
11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H. Australian soap set in a women's remand centre
12.30am Contacts. Trevor Ward and Suzy Smith present the television version of the personal column
1.00 Hands of a Stranger. First part of an American drama about ambitious cop Joe Hearn, who puts his marriage and his career under threat when he becomes obsessed with uncovering the truth about his wife's rape. Starring Armand Assante, Blair Brown and Beverly D'Angelo (r)
3.00 Hardball. Cop drama series
4.00 Three's Company. American comedy series
4.30 America's Top Ten (r)
5.00 Videofashion. The importance of accessories (r)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Anne Leuchars. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Art of Landscape. Soothing scenes backed by relaxing music
6.20 Business Daily
6.30 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 Schools
12.00 News summary
12.05 The Parliament Programme presented by Sue Cameron
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news service
1.00 Sesame Street. Educational entertainment for pre-school children
2.00 The Ancient Art of Cookery. Roy Strong and Sara Paston-Williams discover the impact that the cast-iron stove had on cookery when they visit Saltram House near Plymouth (r) (Teletext)
2.30 Cutting Edge: Eton — Class of '91. Another showing for the first programme in 25 years to go within the gates of Britain's most famous public school (r)
3.30 Land of Hope. The last episode of the Australian drama series that follows the fortunes of four generations of an Anglo-Irish family (r)
4.30 Countdown. Words and numbers games
5.00 The Adventures of TinTin. Episode one of *Shooting Star* (r)
5.05 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Oprah talks to people who discovered that they had not been raised by their mother
6.00 Kate & Allie. Comedy with the two divorcées and their children who share a Greenwich Village home. Starring Susan Saint James and Jane Curtin (r)
6.30 Desmond's. Middling comedy set in a south London barber's shop. When Beverley (Joan Ann Maynard) is mugged, Shirley (Carmen Munroe) decides it is time for self-defence lessons. Husband Desmond (Norman Beaton) is unenthusiastic (r)
7.00 Channel Four News with Jon Snow and Zinab Badawi (Teletext)
8.00 Spaceship Earth. Documentary series that uses satellite technology to give a space-eye view of the Earth. This programme shows how all the planet's continents are linked by shipping routes and asks if the Earth can support its growing population
8.30 The Orchid House.
● CHOICE: If Chekhov had not taken the title first, this would surely have been called the three sisters. One by one the daughters of the troubled white Caribbean family have returned to their Dominican home, determined to save their kith and kin from ruin. In tonight's concluding episode, it is the turn of rich spoiled Natalie, played to the hilt by Elizabeth Hurley (who has been little seen since taking the lead in Dennis Potter's *Christabel*). Tonight too, the political strand bulks larger, as does Michael Byrne's priest. But this has been a languid, discursive piece, seemingly afflicted by the same feeling of inertia and helplessness that has overtaken the main characters. Mood has been stronger than narrative and despite good performances (notably by Frances Barber and Kate Buffery as the other sisters) *The Orchid House* will probably be best most remembered for its handsome photography and exotic locations. (Teletext)
9.35 Affairs of the Heart. Continuing the series that looks at heart disease in Britain, where every three minutes there is a death from a heart attack. The death rate due to heart attacks in Stranraer, Scotland, has been cut during the past three years from 40 per cent to 18 per cent. This programme explains how the community has worked together to achieve this striking result


A wife of crime: Minneapolis's Anthony Bouza (10.30pm)

10.30 True Stories: Police Chiefs.
● CHOICE: Alan and Susan Raymond are an American documentary team who have made a special study of police work. Their earlier film, *The Police Tapes*, was the inspiration for *Hill Street Blues*. In *Police Chiefs* they look at the work of three forces and the men who lead them. Daryl Gates is the head of the Los Angeles police, tough, aggressive and convinced that there is no link between crime and poverty. The other two are relatively liberal. Anthony Bouza of the Minneapolis force says that while not all poor people are criminals, all street criminals are poor. Lee Brown, first black chief of the Houston police, reckons that a national policy of full employment would do more to reduce crime than any other single act. All three come across as skilled professionals, but Bouza's task cannot be helped by a wife who takes part in anti-war protests and is frequently arrested by her husband's officers
11.45 A Week in Politics. Includes an interview with Sir Leon Brittan about the future direction of Britain's European policy. Ends at 1.15am

ITV VARIATIONS

NGLIA
London except: 6.25pm Anglia News 0.45 Relationships 11.15 to 11.45 WideAn- le 12.45 Donahue 1.40 Santa Barbara 2.35 lm: Dodsworth 4.30-5.30 Bedrock.

ORDER
London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Sons and ughters 5.00-5.30 Home and Away 6.00 okaround Thursday 6.30-7.00 Blockbust- s 10.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H 11.35 opperman 12.05am The Equalizer 12.55 m: Billion Dollar Brain 3.00 CinemAttrac- ns 3.30 Night Beat 4.35 Sid with Klammer 50 The Invisible Man 5.15-5.30 Jobfinder.

ENTRAL
London except: 6.25pm-7.00 Central ws 10.45 Central Lobby 11.15 1st Night 45 Hooperman 12.10 Jake and the man 1.00 Re-Awakening 1.55 Word of uth 2.55 Sid with Klammer 3.15 Ameri- a Top Ten 3.50 Bedrock 4.50-5.30 ntral Jobfinder '91

RANADA
London except: 6.30pm-7.00 Granada ight 10.40 What's New 11.10 Families 05 The Equalizer 12.55 Film: Billion Dollar in 3.00 CinemAttractions 3.30 Night Beat 5 Sid with Klammer 4.50 The Invisible 5.15-5.30 Jobfinder

HTV WEST
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 6.00 HTV News 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 7.30-8.00 Jimmy's 10.40 The West This Week 11.25 HTV Weekend Outlook 11.40 Film: Murder On Flight 502 1.30 The Party 2.30 Quiz Night 3.00 Video View 3.25 Bedrock 4.25 The Silk Road 5.20-5.30 Jobs

HTV WALES
As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.30 Wales at Six 7.30-8.00 Wales and Westminster 10.40 Wales This Week 11.10-11.40 Coming of Age

TSW
As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Home and Away 5.00-5.30 Take the High Road 6.00 TSW Today 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.40 Film: 10 Rillington Place 12.55 Film: Billion Dollar Brain 2.50 CinemAttractions 3.20 Night Beat 4.30 Sid with Klammer 4.50 The Invisible Man 5.10-5.30 TSW Jobfinder

TVS
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 5.00-5.30 Home and Away 6.00 Coast to Coast 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.40 Moneywise 11.10 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.05 I'll Take Manhattan 1.50 The World of Golf 2.20 Film: Escape to Burma 3.55 The Twilight Zone 4.10 Beyond 2000 5.00-5.30 Coast to Coast People

TYNE TEES
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Yan Can Cook 5.00-5.30 Home and Away 6.00 Northern Life 6.25-7.00 Blockbusters 10.35 Thank You and Good Night 11.10 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.05 The Equalizer 12.55 Film: Billion Dollar Brain 2.55 CinemAttractions 3.30 Night Beat 4.30 Sid with Klammer 4.50 The Invisible Man 5.15-5.30 Jobfinder

ULSTER
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Sons and Daughters 5.00-5.30 Home and Away 6.00 Six Tonight 6.15 Police Six 6.30-7.00 The Irish News Ulster Schools Quiz 1991 7.30-8.00 Counterpoint 10.45 Farming Ulster 11.15 Ski Tips 11.45 Pop Profile 12.05 The Equalizer 12.55 Film: Billion Dollar Brain 2.55 CinemAttractions 3.30 Night Beat 4.30 Sid with Klammer 4.50 The Invisible Man 5.15-5.30 Jobfinder

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 5.00pm-5.30 Home and Away 6.00 Calendar 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 1.40 Calendar Commentary 11.10 Time Pier al 11.40 Film: Streets of Gold 1.25 Night Heat 2.25 Top Ten 2.55 CinemAttractions 3.25 Music Box 4.25-5.30 Jobs

S4C
Starts: 6.00am C4 Daily 9.25 Ysgolion 12.00 Sbectol 12.10 Pobol Y Cwm 12.30 Newyddion 12.40 Slot Meithrin 1.00 Countdown 1.30 Business Daily 2.00 Third Wave 2.45 Film: The Return of Frank James 4.30 Slot 23 5.15 Tonight with Jonathan Ross 5.45 Heno 6.00 Newyddion 6.15 Heno 6.40 Pobol Y Cwm 7.00 Cantod 7.30 Burw Misen 8.00 The Cosby Show 8.30 Newyddion 9.00 Palydr X 9.30 Orchestral 10.00 Eurocops 11.00 Vic Reeves' Big Night Out 11.30 Short and Curlies 11.45 A Week in Politics 2.00 Diwedd

RTE 1
Starts: 12.15pm Dail Report 12.30 Look Here 1.00 News 1.45 Victorian Kitchen Garden 2.10 Carson's Law 3.00 Live at Three 4.00 News followed by Emmerdale 4.30 Knots Landing 5.20 Red and Blue 5.30 A Country Practice 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 Six-One 6.45 Garda Patrol 7.00 Top of the Pops 7.30 1992 — The European Challenge 8.05 Father Dowling 9.00 News 9.30 Today Tonight 10.10 Challenging Times 10.40 Booklines 11.10 Racing from Cheltenham 11.35 News 11.45 Close

NETWORK 2
Starts: 1.20pm Bosco 1.50 Racing from Cheltenham 4.20 The Den 6.30 Home and Away 7.00 Nuacht 7.08 Cursai 7.30 Head of the Class 8.00 News followed by Freeze Frame 8.30 Marketplace 9.00 The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd 9.30 News followed by Falcon Crest 10.25 Nighthawks 11.05 News 11.25 Dail Report 11.45 Close

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
6.00am The DJ Kat Show 8.40 Mrs Pepperpot 8.50 Panel Pot Pourri 10.00 Here's Lucy 10.30 The Young Doctors 11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful 11.30 The Young and the Restless 12.30pm Sale of the Century 1.00 True Confessions 1.30 Another World 2.20 Santa Barbara 2.45 Wife of the Week 3.15 Bewitched 3.45 The DJ Kat Show 5.00 Punky Brewster 5.30 McHale's Navy 6.00 Family Ties 6.30 Sale of the Century 7.00 Love at First Sight 7.30 In Living Color 8.00 The Simpsons 8.30 Wings 9.00 Wiseguy 10.00 Love at First Sight 10.30 Night Court 11.00 The Outer Limits 12.00 Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS
● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. News on the hour.
6.00am Sky Newswatch 9.00 Sunrise 9.30 Newsline 10.30 Beyond 2000 11.00 International Business Report 11.30 Dayline 12.30pm NBC Today 1.30 NBC Today 2.30 Parliament Live 3.15 Prime Ministers Question Time 3.30 Parliament Live 4.30 Beyond 2000 6.30 Newsline 8.30 Now, Sir Robin 10.30 Newsline 11.30 NBC News 12.30am CBS News 1.30 NBC News 2.30 CBS News 3.30 NBC News 4.30 Now, Sir Robin

SKY MOVIES
● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Showcase
10.00 Gryphon. Amanda Plummer stars as a student teacher with a vivid imagination
11.00 The Diary of Anne Frank (1959). The true story of the fate of a group of Dutch Jews who hid from the Nazis in an Amsterdam attic
2.00pm The Jazz Singer (1980): Neil Diamond stars as the son of a synagogue cantor (Laurence Olivier), who decides to become a pop star
4.00 Daleks — Invasion Earth 2150 AD (1965): Dr Who (Peter Cushing) fends off a plot to turn the Earth into a flying saucer
6.00 Wizards of the Lost Kingdom (1985): A wizard's son and a mighty warrior team up to thwart the plans of a wicked warlock
7.40 Entertainment Tonight
8.00 Piranha Women (1986): An expedition encounters a secret tribe ruled by a demented jungle woman
9.40 Projector
10.00 Critters (1986): Toothy aliens lay siege to a farmhouse. Starring Dee Wallace Stone and M. Emmet Walsh
11.30 The Cage (1989): A brain-damaged Vietnam veteran (Lou Ferrigno) is persuaded to take part in a brutal form of combat
1.10am Blue Angel Café (1989): A young man spends one night of passion with Blue Angel. Starring Tara Buckingham and Richard Brown
2.40 He's My Girl (1987): A boy dresses up in drag in order to accompany his friend on the holiday of a lifetime. Starring T.K. Carter and David Hallyday
4.20 Agent on Ice (1985): Tom Ormeny stars as a former CIA assassin turned private eye who avenges the death of two close friends at the hands of the Mafia. Ends at 5.55

EUROSPORT
● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am International Business Report 5.30 European Business Today 6.00 DJ Kat 7.30 Eurobics 8.00 British Formula 3 Motor Racing 1990 8.30 World Figure Skating Championships 10.00 Freestyle Skiing 10.30 Eurobics 11.00 Ladies World Championships Handball 12.00 IAAF World Indoor Championships 1.00pm World Figure Skating Championships 4.00 Ford Ski Report 5.00 Mobil 1 Motorsport 5.30 Equestrianism 6.30 Eurosport News 7.00 Virginia Slims of Florida 8.00 Inside Track 9.30 European Championship Football 11.00 World Figure Skating Championships 12.00 Eurosport News 12.30am One Day Cricket Highlights: West Indies v Australia 1.30 British Touring Cars 1990 Season

SCREENSPORT
● Via the Astra satellite.
7.00am Moto News 7.30 Dunhill Cup Golf 8.30 US Pro Boxing 10.00 Stop-World of Champs 11.00 World Snooker Classics 1.00pm European Truck Racing Championships 2.00 Powersports International 3.00 Ice Hockey NHL 1991 5.00 Stop-USWA Wrestling 6.00 International Ice Hockey 8.00 Citroen Ski Europe 9.00 Spanish Football 11.00 US PGA Honda Classic

MTV
● Via the Astra satellite.
Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

LIFESTYLE
● Via the Astra satellite.
10.00am Great American Gameshows 11.15 Coffee Break 11.20 Everyday Workout 11.50 Slim Cooking 12.15pm Sally Jessy Raphael 1.05 Style File 1.10 Search for Tomorrow 1.35 The Edge of Night 2.00 Divorce Court 2.25 Lifestyle Plus 2.35 The Best of Europe 3.05 Remington Steele 3.55 Tea Break 4.05 Mary 4.35 Great American Gameshows 6.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 8.00 Close 10.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 12.00 Satellite Jukebox

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
1.40pm The Buccaneer (1938, b/w): Historical drama in which pirate Jean Lafitte sides with the Americans against the British in New Orleans. Starring Frederic March
3.50 The Movie Show
4.20 The Birds and the Bees (1956): A zoologist is befriended by a woman card shark on board an ocean liner
6.00 Walk Like a Man (1987): Raised by a pack of wolves, Howie Mandel returns to civilisation on all fours
7.30 The Movie Show
8.00 Playing for Keeps (1986): Three New York boys decide to convert an old hotel into a glamorous resort for teenagers
10.00 The Karate Kid III (1989): Martial arts expert Ralph Macchio is blackmailed into confronting his arch enemy in a fearsome battle for supremacy
11.50 Moon Over Parador (1988): An American actor (Richard Dreyfuss) is forced to impersonate a deceased Latin American dictator
1.35am Computer Ghosts (1987): A teenage genius creates a holographic burglar alarm. Starring Nicolas Ryan. Ends at 3.05

THE SPORTS CHANNEL
● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
1.30pm Racing Today 2.00 Scottish Cup Football 4.00 Fishing the West 4.30 GW Talks To . 5.00 WWF Wrestling Challenge 6.00 The IBM ATP Tennis Magazine 7.00 This is the Sports Channel 8.00 Inside Track 9.30 Australian Rugby League Preview 11.00 Racing Today 11.30 Inside Track

THE POWER STATION
● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
7.00am Twenty-one hours of rock and pop

RADIO 3

5-6.55am Open University (FM only) 6.55 Weather; News
0 Morning Concert: C.P.E. Bach (Sinfonia in F, Wq 183 No 3: ECO under Leppard); Haydn (Piano Trio in G, H XV 25, Gypsy Trio: Beaux Arts Trio)
0 News
5 Morning Concert (cont): Dvořák (Slavonic Dances, Op 46: Nos 1 in C; 2 in E; 3 in A flat: Czech PO under Karel Sejna); Suk (Meditation on the St Wenceslas' Chorale: Suk String Quartet); Schubert (Ständchen, D 920: Doris Soffel, alto; Nachthelle, D 892: Male Voice Choir of South German Radio under Voorberg); Schubert (Hungarian Melody in B minor: Vladimir Ashkenazy, piano); Bartók (Dance Suite: Philharmonia Hungarica under Dorati)
) News
5 Composers of the Week: J.S. Bach (Chorale-preludes: Komm, heiliger Geist, BWV 651; Allein Gott in der Höh' sei Ehr, BWV 664; Cantata No 68, Also hat Gott die Welt geliebt; Suite No 6 in D, BWV 1012)
5 Morning Sequence: Mozart (Violin Sonata in B flat, K 378: Erich Gruenberg, violin, John McCabe, piano); Haydn (Mass No 2 in F, Missa Brevis: Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford under Preston, with Judith Nelson and Emma Kirkby, sopranos); Schmidt (Four Little Chorale Preludes: Andreas Juffinger, organ); Beethoven (Sextet in E flat, Op 71: Wind Soloists of the COE); Schmidt (Variations on a Hussar's Song: New Philharmonia under Bauer); Dvořák (Violin Sonata in F, Op 57)
5 BBC Welsh SO under Otaka, with John Lill, piano, performs Mozart (Overture, Il Seraglio); Mathias (Symphony No 2, Op 90, Summer Music: under the composer); Rachmaninov (Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Op 43), Tchaikovsky (Fantasy-Overture, Romeo and Juliet) (r)
pm News
5 Birmingham Lunchtime Concert: Martin Hurrell, trumpet, Roderick Elms, piano, perform Bloch (Proclamation); Halsey Steven (Sonata); Virgil Thompson (At the Beach); Grainger's arrangements of Gershwin songs
2.00 Out of the Mist: John Tyrrell, Vilem Tausky and Jan Smaczny consider the late flowering of Janáček's creative life (r)
2.45 Aldeburgh Festival 1990: Tallis Scholars under Peter Phillips, with John Scott, organ, perform Purcell (Cantate Domino and Deus misereatur, Evening Service, Z 230); Locke (Lord, Let Me Know Mine End); Purcell (Remember Not, Lord, Our Offences, Z 50; Hear My Prayer, O Lord, Z 15; Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in G minor, Z 231; O Lord God of Hosts, Z 37); Blow (O Lord God of My Salvation); Child (O Lord God, the Heathen Are Come); Humfrey (Hear, O Heav'ns); Purcell (Lord, How Long Wilt Thou Be Angry? Z 25; Jehova, quam multi sunt hostes, Z 135)
3.45 Concert from Bristol: BBC PO under Edward Downes, with Dmitri Alexeev, piano, performs Brahms (Symphony No 3 in F; Concerto No 2 in B flat), incl 4.25 Interval Reading
5.30 Mainly for Pleasure
7.00 News
7.05 La fanciulla del West: Live from the New Theatre, Cardiff. Piers Burton-Page introduces Puccini's three-act opera in the new Welsh National Opera production by Petrika Ionesco, with the Chorus and Orchestra of the WNO under Julian Smith. Sung in Italian. With Suzanne Murphy, soprano, as Minnie, owner of the Polka; Dennis O'Neill, tenor, as Dick Johnson, a bandit; and Donald Maxwell, baritone, as Jack Rance, the sheriff. 8.15 Where Have All the Sailors Gone? Swansea seamen reminisce. 8.35 Act 2 9.20 Letter from Montana. Walter Kirn examines the haven of real and literary cowboys. 9.40 Act 3
10.25 Come the Revolution: Tongues of Fire. Dr Nigel Smith examines the historical sources for the political trials of the 1640s which took place in the upheavals of legal and constitutional debate
10.45 Elgar (Serenade in E minor, Op 20: City of London Sinfonia under Richard Hickox)
11.00 Benny's Boys (r) 11.30 News
11.35-12.35am Composers of the Week. Debussy (r)
1.00-2.25 Night School (FM only) (except in Scotland)

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM
5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day (s) 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55 Weather 8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Punters
9.45 Letter from . . . South East Asia: In the second in a series of talks by foreign correspondents, Humphrey Hawksley views Vietnam and the Philippines as the two sick men of the region
10.00 News; The Natural History Programme: Jessica Holm and Fergus Keeling look out for tell-tale signs of the otters' return
10.45 An Act of Worship (s)
11.00 News; Citizens (s)
11.25 Conversation Piece: Sue MacGregor talks to Ted Perry, the owner and executive producer of Hyperion, the award-winning record company
11.50 First Person: Media Daze. In the first of a three-part series, George Barber casts a humorous eye over the world of fashion photography
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm The Secret Life of Rosewood Avenue: Raising the Dead. The third of a six-part comedy by Stephen Sheridan (s) (r) 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping
2.00 News; Woman's Hour: Helen Storey, Young Designer of the Year, and Marion Hume, fashion editor of *Esquire*, talk about the fashion industry; and there is a discussion on the right to have a second medical opinion
3.00-4.00 Prime Minister's Questions (FM only)
3.00 Some Kind of Justice (LW only): In Derrick Gear's play, a series of arson attacks on Welsh holiday cottages take on a more sinister appearance when a body is found (s)
4.00 News
4.05 Bookshelf. Nigel Forde talks to Rupert Thomson about *The Five Gates of Hell*, and to Jane Rawlinson about *Paradise of Fools*
4.30 Kaleidoscope: Includes *reviews of Lulu* at the Almeida Theatre, and Neil Astley's *critical biography of Tony* Harrison; an item on the first recording of Sibelius's Violin Concerto by the Soviet violinist Kovannos; and an interview with the playwright Timberlake Wertenbaker (s)
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 News; Financial Report
6.30 Trivia Test Match: Brian Johnston umpires another test of wit and general knowledge (s) (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Soundtrack: You are Feeling Sleepy
● CHOICE: *Plus ça change* . . . Peter Casson, a stage hypnotist sensation in the Fifties, is still at it: a couple of bars of "So Tired" and another volunteer becomes putty in his hands. The only difference, so far as we can tell from this documentary about Casson and two of his rivals, is that musically, he has gone up-market, adding Ravel to his roster of sleep-inducing composers. The hypnotists' success rate is as impressive as ever. One volunteer felt so relaxed that he resigned from the Communist party forthwith. Another shot off down the street, truculently demanding to know what they had done with his belly-button
8.00 Analysis: Shaping Up. A look at the blueprints currently being submitted by Europeans for their common constitution of the future
8.45 Does He Take Sugar?
9.15 Kaleidoscope (s) (broadcast at 4.30pm)
9.45 The Financial World Tonight (s) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight (s)
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: Brother of the More Famous Jack, by Barbara Trapido (4 of 11)
11.00 September Song: The Magic Cat. The third of Ken Blakeson's seven-part humorous exploration of middle age (s)
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.30am News, incl 12.20 Weather 12.33 Shipping

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: 693kHz/433m;909kHz/330m;FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/ 247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. Jazz FM 102.2. LBC: 1152kHz/261m, FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m FM 94.9. World Service: MW 648kHz/463m

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. 5.00am Jenny Costello 6.30 Simon Mayo 9.00 Simon Bates 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Gary King 3.00 Steve Wright in the Afternoon 5.30 News '91 6.00 Jakki Brambles 7.00 Top of the Pops 7.30 Mark Goodier's Evening Session 9.00 Classic Documentary: Guitar Greats — Brian May (r) 10.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00-2.00am Bob Harris

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 4.00am Alex Lester: The Early Show 6.00 Ken Bruce 7.30 Derek Jameson 9.30 Katie Boyle 11.00 Jimmy Young 1.05pm David Jacobs 2.00 Gloria Hunniford 4.00 Gerald Harper 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 The News Huddlines 7.30 Wally Whyton 9.00 Paul Jones 9.45 A Wealth of Wisdom. Skating on Thin Ice. Norman Wisdom recalls highlights from his life (r) 10.00 Martin Kelner 12.05am Jazz Parade 12.35 Bill Rennells with Night Ride 3.00-4.00 A Little Night Music

RADIO 5

6.00am World Service: Newsdesk 6.30 Morning Edition, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News; Sport 9.00 Schools 10.25 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 for toddlers 10.45 How We Worked Then. Fishing 11.00 Sport 11.02 As Radio 4 11.25 The Health Show: The menopause. Tel 0345 909 693, incl 12.00 News; Sport 12.30pm The Price of Greens: Healthy and "green" food 1.00 Sport 1.05 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (broadcast at 10.25am) 1.40 European Concert 2.00 Racing: The Cheltenham Festival — Gold Cup Day (2.15) Daily Express Triumph Hurdle; (2.50) Christies' Foxhunter Chase, (3.30) Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup; (4.05) Ritz Club Chase 4.35 Five Aside 7.20 The Toby Man. A story by Dick King Smith (4 of 5) 7.35 The Secret Garden. A children's story by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1 of 5) 8.05 In the News (r) 8.30 Formula Five 9.00 The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner: Alan Sillitoe's classic short story (1 of 2) 9.30 Eastern Beat, incl 10.00 Sport 11.00 Sport 11.06 World Service 11.55-12.05am Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Morgenmagazin 5.36 News in German; Headlines in English and French 5.47 Press Review 5.52 Financial News 5.58 Weather and Travel News 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin 7.00 News 7.09 24 Hours: News Summary and Financial News 7.30 Stone's America 8.00 News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 Cooking Books 8.30 John Peel 9.00 News 9.15 The Farming World 9.30 Financial News; Sports Roundup 9.45 Network UK 10.01 Assignment 10.30 Pigs Have Wings 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Midi Magazine 12.00 News 12.09pm News About Britain 12.15 Multitrack 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 News 24 Hours 2.00 News, Outlook 2.30 Off the Shelf The Life and Adventures of Private Ivan Chonkin 2.45 Recording of the Week 3.00 News 3.15 Music for a While 4.00 News 4.09 News About Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 News 5.09 Commentary 5.15 The World Today 5.30 Londres Soir 6.15 BBC English 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 News 8.09 The World Today 8.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Meridian 9.01 Sports Roundup 9.15 Global Concerns 9.30 The Reith Lectures 10.00 Newshour 11.00 News 11.09 Financial News 11.15 Music Review 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am The Story of Western Music 1.00 News 1.05 Outlook 1.25 Financial News 1.30 Folk in Britain 1.45 Global Concerns 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Not as Far as Velma 3.00 Newsdesk 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 The World Today 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 The World Today 4.45 News and Press Review in German

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TV CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

How long can you put off making a will?

(7 out of 10 people leave it too late)

Making a will is one of life's most important decisions. Yet it's one decision most people never make.

Too many wrongly assume all they own automatically goes to their next of kin.

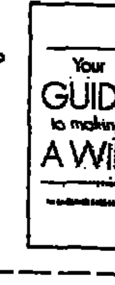
Only by making a proper legal will can you be sure all your wishes are carried out in full.

In short, making a will is essential.

But it needn't be complicated or time-consuming.

With this in mind, Help the Aged has produced a booklet: 'Your Guide to Making a Will'. It tells you in plain English:

* Why you need to make a will * How to go about it * How to save tax * How to make a bequest to your favourite charity



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☐ A free copy of 'Your Guide to Making a Will'
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(Mrs/Miss/Ms/Mr)
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Help the Aged
THE TIME TO CARE IS NOW
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Hezbollah asked to release hostages

From Hazhir Teimourian and Ali Jaber in Beirut

AN APPEAL for the release of Western hostages was made here last night to the Shia factions holding them so as to improve the Shia image at a time when Shia leaders of the uprising in southern Iraq are trying to gain a more acceptable face for their cause.

The appeal was made to the leaders of the Hezbollah (Party of God) movement in Lebanon, who are often blamed for the kidnappings. Those appealing were the leaders of the Shia uprising in southern Iraq, who have been attending the conference of the Iraqi opposition, which has been held here over the past three days.

The Iraqi Shia leaders, who are more moderate than their Iranian counterparts are aware of the need to improve the image of Shia Islam in the West, particularly now that the fate of their uprising against the regime of President Saddam Hussein seems to hang in the balance. They are keen to send signals to the West that any future Iraqi government in which they might participate would be a responsible one.

Afraid that the United States might manipulate the situation in Iraq to ensure the survival of a weakened Saddam in preference to a coalition government of the various opposition groups, a leader of the Dawa (Call) party, the biggest of the Shia parties of Iraq, said: "We are determined that the age of kidnappings and destructiveness come to an end as soon as possible. We are going to be desperately in need of help from the outside world to rebuild Iraq."

The answer they received was reassuring. They were told "at the highest level of the leadership of Hezbollah" that all the hostages were "alive and well". But they were also told that the fate of the captives rested in the hands of Iran, not in the hands of Hezbollah.

Conference sources said that Sheikh Muhammad Husain Fadlallah, to whom the appeal had been addressed, said that the factions holding the hostages were directly answerable to the government of President Rafsanjani in Tehran, and not to his radical critics.

The implication was that hopes to improve relations between the United States and Britain on one hand, and Iran on the other, had not struck obstacles since last August, when the Middle East was plunged into turmoil by the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

Previously, President Rafsanjani had encouraged expectations that all the Western hostages would be freed by Christmas. In the event, only Brian Keenan, an Irish teacher, was released.

In the offices of Worldwide Television News and the Associated Press, where John McCarthy and Terry Anderson worked, their rooms are being preserved, as if to remind their colleagues of their plight.

Poll tax options narrowed

Continued from page 1

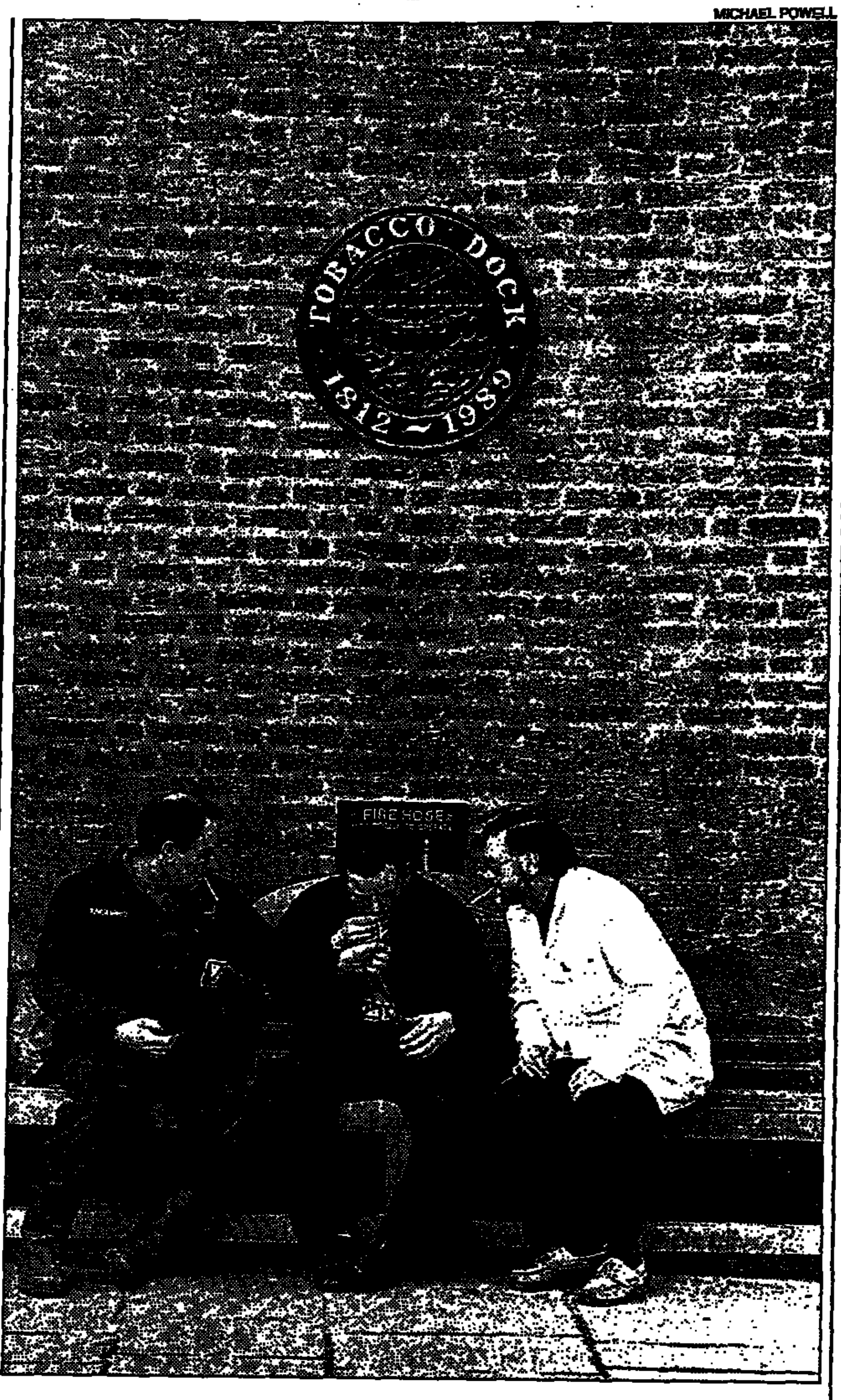
retary confirmed that 17 authorities faced the threat of charge-capping for overspending and urged them to think again, saying it was "not too late" to find savings.

Mr Major, Mr Lamont and Mr Heseltine have had several meetings prior to today's cabinet committee in an attempt to agree a position. It was clear last night that the options, if the poll tax is to go, are:

- A property tax based on capital values which would be set on the assumption that three people live in a household. There would be discounts if the number living there was two or one.
- A "hybrid" consisting of a property tax plus a personal premium of £50 to £100 for every person living in the household.
- A straight property tax, without any in-built "head tax" or discount element, based on capital values or banded according to the size of properties.

A fourth option will clearly be the retention of the community charge, with its impact softened by large extra sums of Treasury grant, but ministers appear to believe that the momentum for scrapping it is unstoppable.

MICHAEL POWELL



Lighting-up time: three workmen having a smoke break at London's Tobacco Dock

Defying the nanny society

By Alan Hamilton

DEMONSTRATING outside the British Medical Association in favour of smoking is the equivalent of a fox parading a banner outside the League Against Cruel Sports demanding the right to be torn to shreds by the hounds.

Incontrovertible evidence of 100,000 tobacco-related deaths a year notwithstanding, a few brave souls yesterday seized the opportunity of national No Smoking Day to demonstrate against the nanny society which, not content with preaching the evils of smoking and drinking, now threatens to remove one of life's few remaining other pleasures should this week's virgin birth reports be fanned into popular flame.

Drawing on a tipped cigarette at the portals of the BMA in Tavistock Square, one of the demonstrators, Rachel MacKay, aged 20, who has smoked since the age of 13, said: "Very few of us are actually smokers. We are committed to the principle of individual freedom, even if that means the freedom to kill yourself. Driving is just as dangerous an activity as smoking."

Gavin Harris, another demonstrator from the pressure group Forest (Freedom Organisation for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco) who is aged 22 and does not smoke, said that the government collected £5.5 billion a year in tobacco duty, but spent only £500 million in treating smoking-related diseases. In his view, this appeared to make smoking acceptable.

The small knot of demonstrators had earlier stationed themselves outside the headquarters of British Telecom where the Princess of Wales was visiting a no-smoking exhibition and telling her audience that there was no smoking in her house, and no ashtrays either.

Warning of violent desert storms

Continued from page 1

only way to prevent widescale damage to Kuwait and in northeast Saudi Arabia and southern Iraq from violent dust and desert storms will be to build sturdy windbreaks across the region. New methods for funnelling sand away may also be needed to arrest the increasing number of dunes moving to threaten roads, airports and cities as far apart as Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

According to Dr el-Baz, the effects of pavement damage on dune movements should not be underestimated. "A whole airport could be covered in dunes in no time at all," he said.

The geologist, whose findings are published in the journal *Science*, said there is historical, as well as scientific, evidence for his fears. After the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s, pilots and airports reported a doubling of dust storms often forcing their closure. Other evidence comes from the changes which took place after the relatively short Yom Kippur war of 1973 between Syria, Egypt and Israel.

The Israeli forces bulldozed a 40ft wall of sand, called the Bar Lev Line, on the eastern side of the Suez Canal. Although the wall was militarily ineffective, it caused lasting effects on the surrounding desert, altering the configuration of dunes in the Sinai peninsula, said the scientist, who visited the area in 1974 at the end of hostilities.

The Gulf region also experienced severe dust storms when Iraq began widescale tilling in the western desert.

Dr el-Baz said arresting this environmental threat will be made more difficult by the destruction of the Kuwaiti institute for scientific research. The institute, vandalised by Iraqi troops, was a centre of excellence for research into encroaching dunes and dust and sandstorms.

Political sketch

The cracking of Heseltine's egg

GULLIVER, on one of his travels, comes upon a nation bitterly divided on a single issue. It is a matter of the greatest importance to all. It is the only topic of political discourse among them.

And what is this great controversy? It is, Swift tells us, the question of which end of an egg you break. In order to extract the contents, do you crack the sharp or the rounded end? A law is passed specifying the small end.

"The people so resented this Law, that, our Histories tell us, there have been six Rebellions raised on that account, wherein one Emperor lost his Life, and another his Crown."

Watching the ludicrous performance of the Commons yesterday, as they debated the future of the poll tax, I wished that Jonathan Swift were here to see his satire made manifest. Here was a great political storm over an impost whose cost to the average household is (I calculate) about the same as their milk bill. Few people can have faced a difference in their outgoings due to the new system which much exceeds the effect of those swingeing increases in the price of petrol which occupy the headlines for perhaps a day and are then forgotten.

But all sense of proportion has long gone, and it is no good the Tories, who have over the years built the domestic rates into an ogre of comparable proportions to what Labour now make of the poll tax, complaining about that. The issue is rapidly becoming, to our era, what the corn laws, home rule for Ireland, or marriage to one's deceased wife's sister were to their generation. Could it have mattered so much? But it did.

The Tory side, obviously rattled about their own disarray and furious that the Opposition is getting away with so sketchy an alternative of its own, behaved abominably. They barracked, interrupted and raised spurious points of order. In the chair, poor Sir Paul Dean, the deputy Speaker, was helpless as government backbenchers howled and clowned. The Tory chief whip was reduced to a goofy grin, and silence. For the first time in this parliament, Labour backbenchers felt so confident of their debating edge that they sat back and left the Tories to make fools of themselves. No need to answer interruption with interruption.

The chief Opposition spokesman, Bryan Gould, made a vigorous speech, by turns caustic and knockabout. He saw no need to cost or elucidate his own proposals. Promising the Tories' Robin Squire that he would tell him the sort of rates bills Dagenham households could expect under Labour, Gould said bills would be "less" and that "seven out of ten households would benefit". He gave no further figures: only a broad smirk as he sat down after a speech full of punch, empty of content, and wonderfully lacking in hostages to fortune.

It fell to Mr Heseltine, the environment secretary, charged with finding a replacement to the poll tax, to reply. What could he say?

Had Labour costed their proposals, he asked? If so, could we have the details, please? If not, then upon what basis could Mr Gould claim that seven out of ten households would pay less? These were logically telling questions, but somehow this exercise has knocked the stuffing out of Mr Heseltine. He seemed to be floundering.

It may be that future generations will look back on this dispute and wonder why, for Britain, it made any more difference than, for Lilliput, it made a difference which way they broke an egg. But, to this House of Commons, it looks quite capable of breaking a secretary of state.

Matthew Parris

Call for health warning on drinks

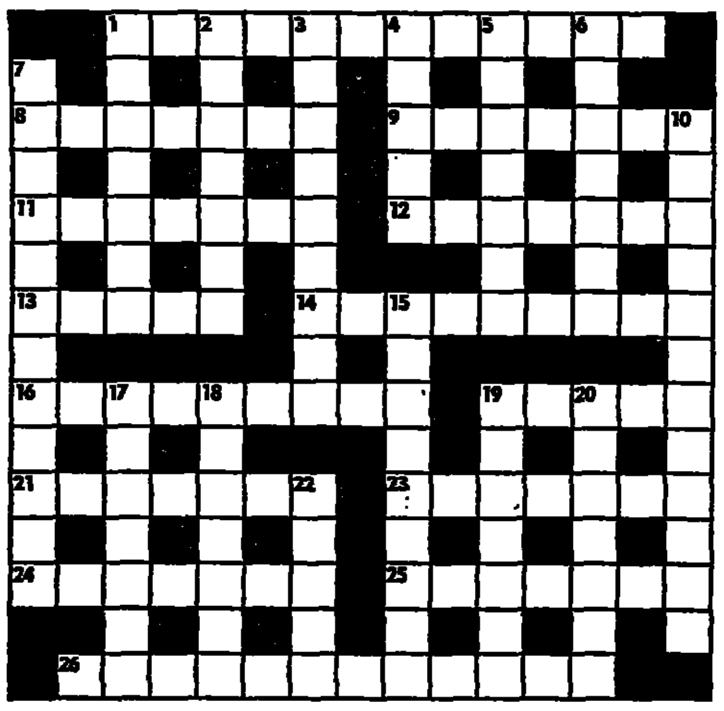
By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

THE pressure group Alcohol Concern yesterday called for health warnings on all alcoholic drinks, a 10 per cent levy on drink advertising to finance alcohol education campaigns, and increased taxes in next week's Budget.

Launching a charter for alcohol and health, Tony Humphris, the group's director of public affairs, said that alcohol causes the deaths of 28,000 people a year in Britain, second only to tobacco. The aim in the next decade should be to halve the number of people who drink more than safe levels, now 7 million, and reduce by three-quarters the number of road accidents caused by drink. Better information about the risks of drinking was needed, he said.

The charter was denounced as "irrelevant and irresponsible" by John Rae, director of the Portman Group, which is funded by six brewers plus International Distillers and Vintners and Seagram Distillers to combat alcohol abuse. He said the charter ignored the most important aspect of tackling alcohol misuse — responsibility. "Individuals should be encouraged to be sensible and responsible in their use of alcohol."

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,553



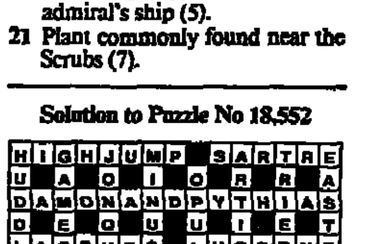
ACROSS

1 Complete food, say, from one whose stock is pure (12).
8 Small band find a way to a fruitful area (7).
9 Disproof makes us sort of tearful (7).
11 Sounds like a nocturnal entitlement to salt (7).
12 Prevarication of state in rejection of report (7).
13 Check sulphur content in this compound (5).
14 Bin-ends from port deliveries (4-5).
16 Desire king to hold wartime prisoner and show some determination (9).
19 Mate is member of the watch in admiral's ship (5).
21 Plant commonly found near the Scrubs (7).
23 Spouse has American bishop under control (7).
24 Jack abandons toads — engages in idle gossip (7).
25 Spanish secret police chief entering sophisticated milieu (7).
26 Greek writer's circle in Athens — and Paris, oddly enough (12).

DOWN

1 Historian's account occurring in a holy book (7).
2 Almost too naive to be moved by applause (7).
3 Society member? Not even an associate (9).
4 Blood-covered sword-tip in the furze (5).
5 William F Cody's place in New York State? (7).
6 Twist together with a fellow in various directions (7).
7 Wycherley's wife's noble lines on a female (12).
10 Age-old yearning to remain inside (4-8).
15 Having to follow a river straight away (9).
17 A flat-bottomed barge is more buoyant (7).
18 Super, to change shape as he could! (7).
19 Reservoir where bird is caught? Quite the opposite (7).
20 The type inclined to be emphatic (7).
22 Into a ship comes the old poet (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,552



Concise crossword, page 17

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

YITE
a. Last-night
b. A stonemason's chisel
c. The yellow-hammer

GYTRASH
a. A ghost
b. Household rubbish
c. Foolishly bold

PLORE
a. To deprecate
b. A working exhibit
c. A tear duct

GUMPHION
a. A funeral banner
b. A volatile ion
c. Poppycock, balderdash

Answers on page 22

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circs.) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T. 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23 734
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be generally dry apart from a few showers near western coasts, with some sunshine after any early mist clears. Thicker cloud will edge into the West towards the end of the day, bringing rain to parts of Northern Ireland and the Western Isles. Patchy mist and fog will affect parts of England and Wales at first, but will soon clear to allow sunny spells. Mild everywhere, especially in the South. Outlook: rain spreading to all parts.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	17	63	s	Majorca	15	59	c
Akrotiri	17	63	s	Malaga	17	63	s
Alex'dria	20	68	f	Malta	17	63	f
Algiers	17	63	c	Melb'rne	17	63	s
Amst'dm	16	61	s	Mexico C*	25	77	s
Athens	12	54	c	Miami*	23	73	f
Bahrain	22	72	s	Milan	15	59	s
Barbados*	29	84	s	Montreal*	1	34	f
Barcelna	14	57	f	Moscow	1	34	c
Belgrade	13	55	s	Munich	5	41	c
Berlin	12	54	s	Naples	17	63	f
Bermuda*	16	61	r	N Delhi	28	82	c
Biarritz	16	61	f	N York*	5	41	s
Borde'x	14	57	c	Nice	16	61	s
Brussels	16	61	s	Oslo	1	34	c
Budapst	14	57	c	Paris	17	63	s
B Aires*	28	82	f	Peking	5	41	s
Cairo	22	72	s	Perth	30	86	s
Cape Tn	23	73	s	Prague	10	50	f
C'blanca	13	55	r	Reykjavik	1	34	sn
Chicago*	-1	30	c	Rhodes	15	59	f
Ch'church	17	63	f	Rio de J	27	81	f
Cologne	17	63	s	Riyadh	26	79	s
C'phagn	6	43	c	Rome	17	63	s
Corfu	15	59	f	Salzburg	8	46	c
Dublin	12	54	r	S F'risco*	12	54	c
Dubrovnik	16	61	s	Santiago*	28	82	s
Faro	15	59	c	S Paulo*	28	82	c
Florence	19	66	s	Seoul	6	43	s
Frankfurt	15	59	s	Sing'por	28	82	f
Funchal	17	63	f	St'kholm	1	34	c
Geneva	10	50	s	Strasb'rg	13	55	s
Gibraltar	15	59	s	Sydney	22	72	c
Helsinki	-2	28	c	Tangier	15	59	c
Hong K	20	68	c	Tel Aviv	19	66	c
Innsbrck	15	59	s	Tenerife	18	64	d
Istanbul	5	41	c	Tokyo	11	52	c
Jeddah	31	88	s	Toronto*	-1	30	s
Jo'burg*	22	72	c	Tunis	19	66	s
Karachi	30	86	s	Valencia	14	57	c
L Palmas	21	70	f	Vanc'ver*	5	41	c
Le Touqt	16	61	f	Venice	15	59	s
Lisbon	15	59	s	Vienna	11	52	s
Locarno	14	57	s	Warsaw	8	46	c
L Angels*	16	61	s	Wash'ton*	7	45	s
Luxembg	14	57	s	Well'nton	19	66	c
Luxor	26	79	s	Zurich	7	45	c

* denotes figures are latest available

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.50	2.35
Austria Sch	21.55	20.15
Belgium Fr	63.00	59.00
Canada $	2.25	2.10
Denmark Kr	11.72	11.02
Finland Mkk	7.40	6.95
France Fr	10.35	9.70
Germany Dm	3.055	2.855
Greece Dr	328	308
Hong Kong $	15.20	14.20
Ireland Pt	1.145	1.075
Italy Lira	2285	2145
Japan Yen	269	252
Netherlands Gld	3.44	3.23
Norway Kr	11.92	11.22
Portugal Esc	264.75	248.75
South Africa Rd	5.50	4.90
Spain Pta	188.25	176.25
Sweden Kr	11.28	10.60
Switzerland Fr	2.65	2.48
Turkey Lira	6800	5800
USA $	1.945	1.825
Yugoslavia Dnr	34	26

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 18C (64F); min 6pm to 6am, 9C (48F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 5.2 hr.

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	.01	7	45	fog
Anglesey	-	.07	13	55	drizzle
Aviemore	0.4	-	13	55	cloudy
Belfast	-	.13	12	54	rain
Birmingham	-	-	13	55	cloudy
Blackpool	-	-	14	57	cloudy
Bognor Regis	1.8	.06	10	50	drizzle
Brighton	2.1	.03	13	55	rain
Bristol	-	.02	14	57	dull
Cardiff	-	.06	11	52	fog
Edinburgh	-	.01	9	48	dull
Exmouth	-	.24	10	50	fog
Folkestone	-	-	12	54	cloudy
Glasgow	-	.12	9	48	rain
Hastings	0.1	-	13	55	cloudy
Jersey	1.2	.06	17	63	cloudy
Kinloss	0.1	-	15	59	cloudy
Leeds	-	-	14	57	cloudy
Littlehampton	2.1	.04	13	55	drizzle
London	0.1	-	14	57	cloudy
Lowestoft	-	-	11	52	dull
Manchester	-	-	13	55	cloudy
Minehead	-	-	13	55	dull
Newcastle	-	-	12	54	cloudy
Nottingham	-	.03	12	54	drizzle
Penzance	-	.87	10	50	rain
Poole	-	.12	11	52	drizzle
Scarborough	-	-	11	52	cloudy
Scilly Isles	-	.50	10	50	rain
Shanklin	0.1	.12	11	52	drizzle
Southend	-	-	12	54	cloudy
St. Ives	-	.89	12	54	rain
Teignmouth	-	.30	10	50	rain
Tenby	-	.19	10	50	drizzle
Torquay	-	.24	11	52	rain
Weymouth	-	.28	10	50	fog
Wick	-	.01	8	46	rain
Worthing	2.0	.03	11	52	bright

Tuesday's figures are latest available

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 12C (54F); min 6pm to 6am, 9C (48F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.14 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil.

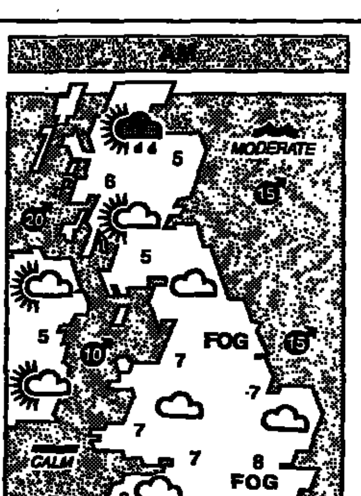
TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

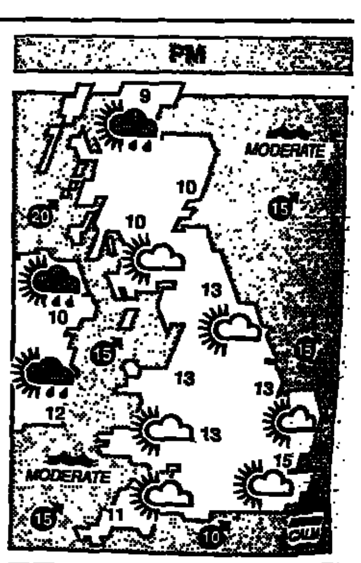
Greater London 701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex 702
Dorset,Hants & IOW 703
Devon & Cornwall 704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms 705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon 706
Beds,Herts & Essex 707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs 708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent 709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs 710
Central Midlands 711
East Midlands 712
Lincs & Humberside 713
Dyfed & Powys 714
Gwynedd & Clwyd 715
N W England 716
W & S Yorks & Dales 717
N E England 718
Cumbria & Lake District 719
S W Scotland 720
W Central Scotland 721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders 722
E Central Scotland 723
Grampian & E Highlands 724
N W Scotland 725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland 726
N Ireland 727

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

AM



PM



YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	11	52	c	Guernsey	15	59	s
B'rmgham	16	61	c	Inverness	12	54	f
Blackpool	15	59	f	Jersey	16	61	s
Bristol	17	63	s	London	17	63	s
Cardiff	17	63	s	M'nchster	15	59	f
Edinburgh	11	52	r	Newcastle	15	59	c
Glasgow	11	52	r	R'ldsway	8	46	fg

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Belbroughton, Hereford & Worcester, 21C (70F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath, Highland, 8C (46F); highest rainfall: Lerwick, Shetland, 0.42 in; highest sunshine: Sandown, Isle of Wight, 10.4 hr.

LIGHTING-UP TIMES

London 6.3 pm to 6.16 am
Bristol 6.12 pm to 6.26 am
Edinburgh 6.13 pm to 6.30 am
Manchester 6.10 pm to 6.25 am
Penzance 6.25 pm to 6.37 am

Sun rises: 6.18 am
Sun sets: 6.3 pm
Moon rises: 5.22 am
Moon sets: 4.11 pm

New moon March 16

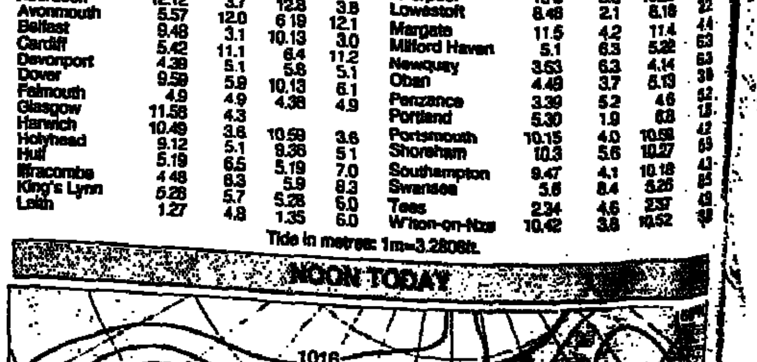
HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	12.25	6.2	12.53	6.5
Aberdeen	12.12	3.7	12.8	3.8
Avonmouth	5.57	12.0	6.19	12.1
Belfast	9.48	3.1	10.13	3.0
Cardiff	5.42	11.1	6.4	11.2
Devonport	4.39	5.1	5.8	5.1
Dover	9.59	5.9	10.13	6.1
Falmouth	4.9	4.9	4.38	4.9
Glasgow	11.58	4.3		
Harwich	10.49	3.6	10.59	3.6
Holyhead	9.12	5.1	9.36	5.1
Hull	5.19	6.5	5.19	7.0
Ilfracombe	4.48	8.3	5.9	8.3
King's Lynn	5.26	5.7	5.28	6.0
Leith	1.27	4.8	1.35	6.0

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Liverpool	10.6	8.6	10.28	8.6
Lowestoft	8.48	2.1	8.18	2.2
Margate	11.5	4.2	11.4	4.4
Milford Haven	5.1	6.3	5.22	6.3
Newquay	3.53	6.3	4.14	6.3
Oban	4.49	3.7	6.13	3.8
Penzance	3.39	5.2	4.6	5.2
Portland	5.30	1.9	6.3	1.8
Portsmouth	10.15	4.0	10.58	4.2
Shoreham	10.3	5.6	10.27	5.9
Southampton	9.47	4.1	10.18	4.3
Swansea	5.6	8.4	6.26	8.5
Tees	2.34	4.6	2.37	4.8
W'ton-on-Nze	10.42	3.8	10.52	4.0

Tide in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS

THURSDAY MARCH 14 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-32
● LAW 33
● SPORT 34-38

Pirelli's bid faces failure

THE dispute among shareholders in Continental, the German tyre company, over the DM2 billion reverse takeover bid by Pirelli, its Italian rival, and a change in the group's articles of association is set to develop into a legal battle (Wolfgang Münchau writes from Hanover).

An extraordinary meeting of shareholders in Hanover was last night expected to cast a vote on the merger proposal and the overturning of a restriction that limits voting rights to 5 per cent per shareholder.

While the merger proposal is likely to be rejected, Pirelli has pinned its hopes on the issue of the overthrowing of voting rights.

One shareholder, Henning von Wedel, a lawyer, said he will make a legal challenge against a decision to overthrow the restrictions on the grounds that smaller shareholders needed the limits to prevent a predator succeeding in making a takeover without having to make a bid.

Horst Urban, Continental's chief executive, defended the company's decision to refuse a merger with Pirelli, saying that the merged group would be unable to pay dividends "for years".

Air fares cut

American Airlines, one of the largest carriers in America, which starts direct flights into Heathrow this summer, yesterday launched its biggest cut-price fare promotion in the carrier's history. The return New York-London fare will drop to $498 from April 8.

BA's cloud, page 27

Hillsdown level

A sharp drop in profits at its non-food businesses limited Hillsdown Holdings to a 1 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £191 million last year. The company has raised the final dividend by 11 per cent to 6p, making 8p (7.3p).

Tempus, page 27

Enterprise up

After-tax profits at Enterprise Oil rose 35 per cent to £157 million last year from pre-tax profits up 41 per cent at £210 million. The dividend rises 5.4 per cent to 15p.

Tempus, page 27

THE POUND

US dollar
.8555 (–0.0020)

German mark
.9276 (+0.0057)

Exchange index
3.3 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

T 30 Share
952.1 (+4.3)

T-SE 100
148.2 (–6.6)

ew York Dow Jones
31.68 (+9.16)*

okyo Nikkei Avge
418.32 (–309.10)

MAJOR CHANGES

ES:

ndard Chartered	360p (+25p)
M	646p (+16p)
I	380p (+17p)
R	402p (+28p)
ithwaite	131p (+16p)
ly Shop	284½p (+17p)
nputer People	185p (+32p)
nston	260p (+13p)
Group	58½p (+16p)
on Eng	382p (+31p)
wker Siddeley	557½p (+20p)

LS:

k Org	726p (–13p)
come	497½p (–10p)
land	649½p (–13p)
smouth Sund	277½p (–30p)
C	586½p (–17p)
rsham	368½p (–17p)
gate	307p (–17p)
tex	47½p (–11p)
o	963½p (–28p)

osing Prices...Page 29

INTEREST RATES

don: Bank Base: 13%
nth Interbank 12⅞-12¹⁵⁄₁₆%
nth eligible bills: 11¹³⁄₁₆-11¾%
Prime Rate 9%
ral Funds 5¹⁵⁄₁₆%*
nth Treasury Bills 5.82-5.81%*
ar bonds 96¹⁄₁₆-96³⁄₃₂*

CURRENCIES

on:	New York:
8555	£: $1.8570*
2.9276	$: DM1.5770*
Fr2.5420	$: SwFr1.3687*
r9.8798	$: FFr5.3740*
n253.00	$: Yen136.40*
ex:93.3	$: Index:63.1
£0.701349	SDR £0.749206
U1.425823	£: SDR1.334746

GOLD

on Fixing:
365.20 pm-$366.00
$365.25-366.75 (£197.50-
)
York:
$367.65-368.15*

NORTH SEA

(Apr) ..... $20.20 bbl ($19.05)

RETAIL PRICES

30.2 January (1985=100)
otes latest trading price

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Surprise help for deficit from invisibles

By Anatole Kaletsky and Susan Ellicott

BRITAIN'S current account deficit was much smaller last year than originally estimated.

The Central Statistics Office's announcement surprised City analysts and led some to speculate that Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, would produce a bullish forecast of the country's trade performance in next week's Budget.

The CSO's spectacular revision showed a surplus of £2.1 billion on Britain's invisible trade in the fourth quarter, compared with the earlier estimate of zero. As a result, the current account deficit for the fourth quarter was reduced from £3 billion to £843 million and the deficit for the whole of 1990 fell from £16 billion to £12.8 billion.

The fourth quarter surplus in Britain's invisible trade was easily the highest ever and attracted scepticism among analysts, but if this performance were confirmed and sustained into this year, it would lop £700 million from Britain's monthly trade deficit, which was running at £1.2 billion in January. As a result, Mr Lamont would be able to project a 1991 trade performance far better than the £11 billion deficit he forecast in the autumn statement last November. This would take some of the sting out of criticisms about sterling's alleged overvaluation in the exchange-rate mechanism and might reassure the markets that the exchange rate was sustainable in the long term.

Official explanation for the change by government statisticians resulted from what was described as late-landing data for the October-December quarter of the year, covering a jump in earnings on overseas investments.

The biggest elements in the revision concerned the net interest profits and dividends earned on Britain's overseas investments. The CSO originally believed that these would show a substnatial fall between the first and second halves of last year. Instead, the credits on the IPD account in the third quarter were revised upwards from £19.9 billion to £20.6 billion and estimated at £21.9 billion in the fourth quarter. IPD debits in the fourth quarter were estimated at £19.6 billion.

When British interest rates are significantly higher than rates elsewhere, Britain pays more to foreign investors than it takes in from similar investments overseas.

Since 1981, Britain has taken in more money in the form of interest, profits and dividends than it has paid out, but in the past few years that surplus narrowed as interest rates rose.

Sentiment for the pound improved after the revision. The pound closed at DM2.9276, compared with Tuesday's DM2.9203 close. A rise of half a cent against the dollar was eventually replaced by a fall from $1.8575 to $1.8555. The effective exchange rate index rose 0.1 to close at 93.3.

A bigger influence on foreign exchanges yesterday was the first increase since last autumn in American retail sales. The mark, initially slightly up after persistent selling of dollars by central banks on Monday and Tuesday, finally dropped from $1.5710 to $1.5785 as attempts to hold down the dollar failed.

The larger than expected 0.8 per cent rise, helped by stronger car sales, could be an early sign that consumer confidence was improving in the final stages of the Gulf war.

The increase in retail purchases, which account for about half of overall consumer spending, followed a revised 1.4 per cent drop in January and one of the weakest Christmas shopping seasons in years for big stores. February's figure was the first rise since a negligible 0.1 per cent increase last October.

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, told Congress that the economy was "less fragile" than it was six months ago, although he was concerned about "balance sheet pressures" in the financial sector. Only last week, the central bank cut the Fed funds rate by a quarter-point to 6 per cent in the latest of several moves over the past few months to encourage banks to lend more to creditworthy customers.

Consumer spending was the engine of America's eight-year economic expansion during the Eighties and is watched as the key to a recovery from the current recession.

Comment, page 27

PETER TREVNOR

New face of BTR: Alan Jackson, chief executive, who promised changes yesterday

BTR slips below £1bn

By Michael Tate, city editor

BTR has announced its first profits decline since 1966 and and has promised acquisitions in the early Nineties.

Pre-tax profits fell 8.6 per cent to £966 million last year, suspending the group from the exclusive £1 billion profit club, after sales dipped 2.3 per cent to £6.74 billion.

Sir Owen Green, the chairman, said, however, that the weakening of the American and Australian dollars, trimmed £48 million off the pretax total. Chris Bull, the finance director, said the group "never covers forward. We're not speculators".

Earnings relapsed from 35.2p to 31.8p a share, but shareholders are treated to an 8.75p final dividend, giving them a 15.75p (15p) total for the year.

Sir Owen said most of the group's geographical and business areas felt the effects of the recession. The workforce was reduced by 7,500, or 7 per cent, during the year.

He added that the opening weeks of this financial year indicated improvements in Europe, the Far East and America. However, these continued to be outweighed by the effects of recession elsewhere.

Alan Jackson, who took over as chief executive from John Cahill at the beginning of the current year, promised "a different BTR" this decade. Responding to criticism that BTR had lost its touch on acquisiitons, he said: "I believe our strike rate remains the envy of the world."

He added that the market would be right for an acquisition soon. "We have not identified an opportunity yet, but we're looking at Europe, and particuarly at the UK." Pilkington, which fought off a bid from BTR in the Eighties, and Hawker Siddeley are tipped by BTR followers as possible bid targets.

Mr Jackson said the group would fund its acquisition programme through the sale of exisiting businesses and the raising of new equity. although it may use debt initially "so that we can act quickly". BTR was, he added, "good at buying businesses cheap and improving them".

The group also remains good at financial management. Last year, despite spending £420 million on plant, it reduced its trade working capital by £88 million, and cut its net debt by £163 million, trimming its gearing from 48 to 41 per cent.

Comment, page 27

ILG's tour firms will close

By Angela Mackay

ADMINISTRATORS to International Leisure Group failed to find a buyer for its tour operations by the Civil Aviation Authority's deadline of yesterday afternoon. They consequently dismissed 1,550 staff and said the tour companies would be liquidated.

KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the administrator appointed to ILG last Friday, had been trying to sell the tours division, which includes Intasun and Club 18-30, before its tour operator's licence expired at 4pm. Tim Hayward, one of the administrators, said they would still try to sell the brand names.

"As far as the tour operation as a whole is concerned, we have come to the end of the road, although we have had offers for the brand names. Unfortunately the insolvency of the group, the calling of the Tour Operators Study Group's £63 million bond and the consequent withdrawal of the company's holidays from retailers damaged the business to the extent to which it was not possible to sell the tour group as a whole," he said.

Mr Hayward added that the CAA had extended the licence of Air Europe, the airline that is ILG's other main business, until Tuesday afternoon when the administrators will meet the authorities.

If there is no buyer, then Air Europe is also likely to be liquidated and its 2,300 staff dismissed. If Air Europe is closed, airports and regulatory bodies have the right to first call on assets.

Mr Hayward said he had not received any serious offers but there had been several expressions of interest in the airline. Companies such as British Midland, Dan-Air and Owners Abroad are believed to be interested in parts of Air Europe.

An announcement of the sale of Quest Leisure Group, the school holidays specialist, is however expected within a few days, Mr Hayward said.

Despite the removal of more than 20 per cent of Britain's package holidays, many tour operators are reluctant to raise their capacity to match the shortfall, preferring to ensure they make good profits by only just matching the likely demand.

Omni exposure, page 26

Rebuilding Kuwait 'to cost less than forecast'

By Ross Tieman and Neil Bennett

THE cost of rebuilding Kuwait will be considerably less than expected, according to a banker just back from the war-ravaged city.

British construction companies had hoped for huge contracts as part of a reconstruction programme expected to cost £50 billion or more during the coming decade.

But David Douglas-Home, a director of Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, and chairman of the Committee for Middle East Trade (Comet) of the British Overseas Trade Board, said yesterday that much of the city's building and infrastructure appeared to be structurally sound. Meanwhile, the leaders of the Kuwaiti banking industry have returned to the kingdom in a fleet of jets chartered for the journey. Banks in Kuwait hope to re-open with a limited service as early as next week.

The journey coincided with a move by the Bank of England to lift the Treasury's restrictions on the international transfer of Kuwaiti assets, imposed on August 2 after the Iraqi invasion. The freeze on Iraqi assets remains in force.

The bankers took new computer systems with them to start rebuilding their records. Mr Douglas-Home himself returned to Britain on Tuesday after spending 30 hours in Kuwait with a business delegation of six. Their account, gleaned from meetings with Kuwaiti ministers and officials and first-hand examination, provides the most authoritative assessment yet of the state of the city.

The party concluded that the main opportunities for British business would lie in refurbishing and re-equipping buildings stripped bare by the Iraqis. Everything in the shops had been "either destroyed, or removed, or vandalised", said Mr Douglas-Home.

Alan Cockshaw, chairman of the construction group AMEC, spoke of the "unbelievable mess" made by the departing Iraqis. But he added: "The basic infrastructure of the city of Kuwait is largely undamaged."

Construction opportunities would also be limited by the determination of the Kuwaitis to rebuild their city for a smaller population. Only a third to a quarter of the original population of two million remains.

Mr Douglas-Home said Kuwait urgently needed basic foods and a more sophisticated food distribution system. Thereafter every kind of appliance and comfort found in a modern country would be needed.

Comet will be working with the trade department to establish large stocks of British made goods in nearby states like Dubai.

Oil climbs above $20 after curb on output

By Martin Barrow

THE price of oil rose beyond $20 a barrel, in another day of strong trading in the wake of an agreement by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to curb production.

In London, the benchmark Brent crude for delivery in April rose $1.02 to $20.05 a barrel.

Since Opec agreed on Tuesday to reduce output by 5 per cent as a first step towards pushing the price of oil back up to $21 a barrel, it has risen almost $2. American oil futures rose 63 cents to $20.30, supported by figures from the American Petroleum Institute showing a larger-than-expected drawdown of 6 million barrels in crude inventories in the week ending last Friday.

Stronger oil prices have caught many traders offguard and some of the increase can be attributed to shortcovering by traders who sold oil last week expecting the Opec meeting to end without a deal.

T&N cuts 2,400 from workforce

By Colin Campbell

T&N, the automotive and engineering group, will shortly complete its 14-month programme of cutting 2,400 jobs from its 42,000 workforce, the majority of them in Britain. The company said more job losses are likely.

Colin Hope, the chairman, said the measures reflected cost-cutting exercises and efforts to improve efficiency. T&N provided £14 million against its 1990 profits to cover the redundancy costs and said the number of additional jobs cut would depend on markets. Customer demand is erratic and uncertain, the chairman said.

Pre-tax profits in 1990 fell from £84 million to £70.5 million. A maintained final dividend of 7.25p makes 10.85p (10.75p) for the year.

Tempus, page 27

Business sees the green light

By Ross Tieman
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY O'Reilly, the chairman of Heinz, was persuaded that green tuna was good for his business while lunching with Jerry Moss, head of A&M Records.

Mr Moss had seen a stomach-churning film, secretly recorded, of dying dolphins trapped in the nets of tuna fishermen. What the two men ate that day is not recorded, but by the time the coffee came, Mr Moss had persuaded his companion that public concern over the accidental slaughter was a threat to his business and an opportunity on which it could capitalise.

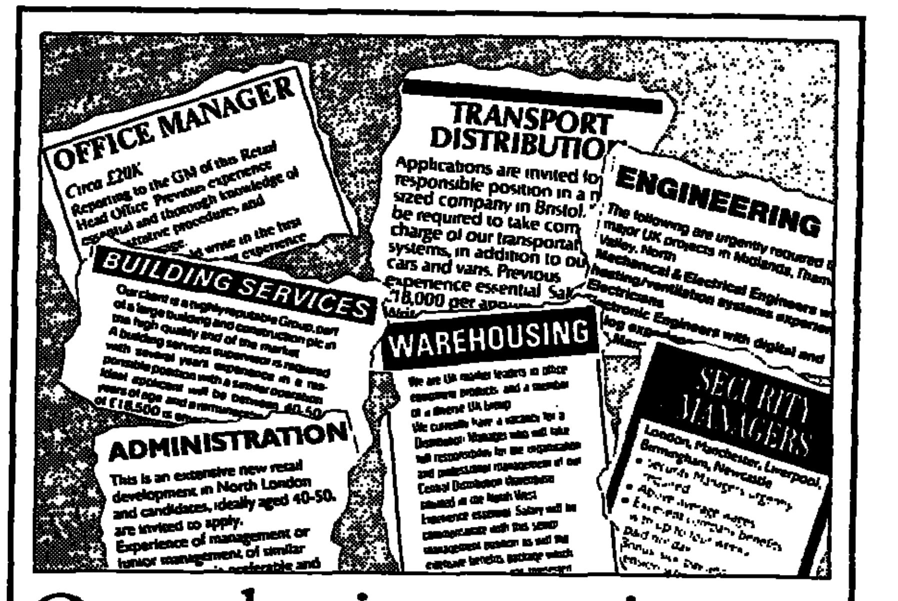
Thus it was, says an *Economist* survey, that Heinz became the first American company to market "dolphin free" tuna: a move that has been copied worldwide. Although tuna sales and prices have scarcely changed since, the decision won Heinz much favourable publicity. The move was, says the *Economist* report *The Greening of Global Investment*, one of the most positive responses to the growing pressures on business to clean up its act.

"Socially responsible" investment funds in America now control almost $500 billion of assets. Britain's ethical investment funds may field only £241 million of assets, but their size is growing at twice the industry rate. They are just the thin end of the wedge. Clive Gilchrist, chairman of the National Association of Pension Funds, said: "Socially responsible investment is one of those motherhood and democracy issues: how can anyone possibly be against it?"

Bad publicity on the environment can make a company suffer. Although extracting peat for garden fertiliser provides only 5 per cent of Fisons' profits, the group's activities in this area attracted the opprobrium of the Prince of Wales. Who now would want a Union Carbide plant on their doorstep, or an Exxon tanker docking beside their holiday beach?

Environmental accidents impose a huge direct cost on companies and hinder their activities long afterwards. BTR, the industrial group, tried to take over Pilkington, the glass maker, in 1988 and Norton, the American abrasives group, in 1989. Both bids failed. Both targets attacked BTR's social record in their defence.

As the decade progresses, shareholders may join consumers and legislators in compelling companies to respond to social and environmental concerns, the report concludes. "This profound development heralds the age of the social balance sheet. In response to the new agenda, the task of measuring social good, once the preserve of philosophers, will need to be addressed by corporate strategists, shareholders an investment managers alike."



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Simon issues warning as profits edge forward 3%

By JONATHAN PRYNN

SIMON Engineering's pre-tax profits rose only 3 per cent last year, and the group has given warning that "significant improvements" are unlikely in the current year.

The engineering, environmental and industrial services group unveiled pre-tax profits of £39.8 million (£38.6 million). The final 10.7p dividend makes 15.7p for the year, a 6 per cent improvement.

Turnover fell 18 per cent to £545.7 million. Earnings per share were also down, falling 9 per cent to 33.4p on an equity base enlarged 25 per cent by last year's £46.4 million rights issue.

The cash call has had the effect of halving Simon's gearing to 13 per cent and increasing interest cover to 19 times. Of the funds raised, £35 million was spent on acquisitions. The rest of the money is expected to be spent soon.

Of the four divisions comprising the recently restructured group, the environmental businesses proved the most resilient against the recession. The environmental division raised pre-tax profits 63 per cent to £4.9 million and widened net margins from 4.9 per cent to 6.8 per cent.

Brian Kemp, the chief executive, said legislative regulation and enforcement protected the division from the effects of recession.

The industrial services division also reported a profits increase, but the process engineering and access divisions saw profits decline. Operating margins for the group as a whole increased from 6.5 per cent to 7.7 per cent.

Roy Rogers, the chairman, said the rebuilding of Kuwait was offering opportunities to companies across all divisions of the group. Simon is involved in work to contain the Gulf oil slick. Mr Rogers said he could not yet quantify the amount of business that might be involved.

A £2 million redundancy cost relating to 600 job losses was taken above the line. The overall head count remained virtually unchanged at 7,500.

Mr Rogers sounded a note of caution on the prospects for this year despite some indications that the worst of the recession may be over. He said: "At this stage, it appears unlikely that 1991 will show significant improvements over 1990."

However, he added: "We are well placed to benefit from any upturn with our sharply focused businesses and strong management."

The shares rose 32p to 383p.

Point of view: Sir David Wolfson listens as Geoffrey Maitland Smith addresses the Next meeting yesterday

Sears' actions 'affected decision'

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

SIR David Wolfson, chairman of Next, told shareholders that Sears' behaviour during early negotiations on the sale of Grattan, Next's mail order business, was an important factor in the decision to recommend Otto-Versand's £151 million offer over Sears' £155 million offer.

Sir David told the extraordinary meeting yesterday that Next would spend about £50 million with Grattan in the next four years on services for the Next Directory. Otto, he said, would have the capacity, expertise and goodwill to give Next the best possible service.

Geoffrey Maitland Smith, Sears chairman, told the meeting, which was later adjourned, that Sears had made the highest cash offer. "Nothing Sears has heard leads us to believe that Otto-Versand can offer Next any better relationship than Sears.

"Sears is able to service fully all the requirements of Next and the Next Directory as well if not better than Otto."

Sir David said Next's negotiations with Otto were swift and satisfactory, while those with Sears were not.

A meeting to approve Otto's offer will be held on March 22. If the offer is not approved then, another meeting will be held on March 26 to approve Sears' offer.

Of 90 million proxy votes received, 50 million are believed to have approved Otto's offer with 40 million against.

Unigate forecasts £30m fall

By MARTIN BARROW

UNIGATE, the food and transport group, has given a warning that profits for the year to the end of this month will not exceed £75 million before tax, a figure well below market expectations.

This compares with profits of £105.5 million in the previous 12 months and with market forecasts of between £85 million and £90 million. However, the company has promised to maintain the final dividend at 9.6p, which would leave the total payment unchanged at 15.3p. The shares initially fell 22p to 302p but recovered to 307p.

The shortfall was attributed to difficult trading conditions within Unigate's non-food operations, mainly vehicle distribution and leasing, and in poultry, which has been affected by market oversupply and depressed prices in the final three months of the year.

The company also gave a warning of unspecified provisions to cover future losses on the disposal of used vehicles. Unigate also announced the resignation of Andrew Dare as managing director of the UK food division.

Mr Dare is believed to have been an unsuccessful applicant for the post of chief executive last year. The job went instead to Ross Buckland, head of Kellogg's European operations, and his departure was not unexpected. Mr Dare's compensation is being discussed.

Charles Lawrence, the managing director of Wincanton Distribution Services, and Gordon Summerfield, the managing director of Unigate Dairies, have been appointed to the main board of Unigate group.

As resilient as BTR

1990 Year End Results

	1990	1989
Sales	£6,742m	£6,904m
Profit before tax	£966m	£1,057m
Earnings per share	31.8p	35.2p
Dividends per share	15.75p	15.00p

BTR

BTR plc, SILVERTOWN HOUSE, VINCENT SQUARE, LONDON SW1P 2PL. TELEPHONE: 071 834 3848

These results and comparisons include currencies translated into Sterling at the appropriate average rates for each year. 1989 has been restated from period end rates.

Creditors owed £3m at Toothill

By JONATHAN PRYNN

ADMINISTRATIVE receivers have been appointed at RW Toothill, the County Durham upholstered furniture manufacturer formerly controlled by Adamas Industri, the failed Swedish group. Shares have been suspended at 500p.

The company, which has creditors of £3.2 million, said its trading position had deteriorated due to the recession and the Gulf war. Toothill has suffered from new furniture safety regulations and reported interim pre-tax losses of £381,000 (£39,000 profit) to end-September.

Toothill, which has 200 employees, changed its emphasis just before the recession from the high quality low volume market to the high volume market. Iain Davidson, joint managing director, said: "The company has a good core business in the low volume high quality market but the high volume work taken on during 1990 was at poor margins."

Ansbacher dividend cut by 40%

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HENRY Ansbacher, the merchant bank, slumped to a loss of £2.64 million in the second half of last year after it wrote off a £4.7 million loan to Roger Levitt, the chairman of the collapsed financial services group, who has been charged with theft.

The loss, which pushed profits for the year down by 76 per cent to £2.46 million, has forced the bank to cut its dividend by 40 per cent to 1.5p. The bank had provided for substantially all of the loan but planned to take action to recover part. Profits were cut by other bad debt provisions and a £797,000 loss on an undisclosed investment.

However, attributable profits were boosted by a £6.67 million extraordinary profit after the bank redeemed its convertible unsecured loan stock below par value. The balance sheet was still strong.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Logitek gives warning on full-year profits

LOGITEK, the computer services group, has issued a warning that difficult trading conditions, provisions for obsolete stock and high interest rates will have a "significant effect" on current-year profits to end-March. The warning came with news that the group will sell its Azlan subsidiary to its management for about £4.3 million.

Logitek, which is in takeover talks with another computer group, Microvitec, axed its interim dividend in January after revealing a slump in pre-tax profits to £145,000 (£1.31 million) for the six months to September. The purchaser of Azlan, a distributor in the personal computer dealer network, will also repay inter-company debt of about £300,000 and assume Azlan's net external borrowings, which amounted to about £2 million at end-February. This will reduce Logitek's own debt by about £6.4 million.

EMC to buy US film firm

EMC, the media and business services group, is to acquire Novo Communications, an American film storage and distribution company, for an initial consideration of $14 million. The deal is being part financed by a placing and open offer of new convertible and redeemable preference shares to raise £4.3 million. Shares were suspended at 75p before the announcement.

Micklegate dives £1.2m

INTERIM pre-tax profits at Micklegate Group, the USM-quoted property developer, fell to £22,000 (£1.31 million) to end-October. Turnover was £2.22 million (£4.66 million). Earnings per share collapsed to 0.07p (5.24p). Again, there is no interim dividend. The company said the commercial property sector had declined to an unprecedented low level.

Lloyds Chemists up

LLOYDS Chemists, the second biggest pharmacy chain in Britain after Boots, made pre-tax interim profits of £8.22 million, up 61 per cent, to end-December. Shares jumped 16p to 276p. Sales rose 26 per cent to £112.5 million and earnings per share increased by 50 per cent to 10.37p. The interim dividend is up 50 per cent to 1.17p. The interest charge rose 63 per cent to £1.76 million.

Increased profits derived from improved margins helped by higher "own label" sales. Barley Chemists was acquired last month for £5.6 million, taking the chain to 628 outlets.

TMI shares suspended

SHARES in Third Mile Investment were suspended at 40p ahead of news that it has entered into agreement with a group of investors who plan to acquire certain assets in exchange for new TMI ordinary shares. This will result in the investors acquiring control of TMI. Two of them, Lord Romsey and R. T. Sperring, plan to subscribe for 8 million TMI ordinary shares.

Anglia TV sheds jobs

ANGLIA Television has become the latest ITV company to announce redundancies in the lead up to the Channel 3 franchise round. It is to shed 95 employees in the next two years and privatise its canteen and catering services, which employ another 31. David McCall, the chief executive, said the redundancies are part of long-term plans to reduce costs.

Bristol to buy homes

BRISTOL & West Building Society intends to launch a business expansion scheme this month to buy some of the 440 houses it has repossessed and rent them to former owners. Tenants would have the right to buy back the houses. Bristol had a 30 per cent increase in pre-tax profits [illegible] year, in spite of a rise in bad debt provisions to £5.1 million. It provided £1 million against its commercial lending book of £185 million and would consider requests for up to £10 million. In the year Bristol paid £25 million for Hamptons Estate Agency and Guernsey Savings and Loan Corporation.

Swiss Bank 'may lose £19m on Omni loans'

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SWISS Bank Corporation, Switzerland's second largest bank, may lose up to Sfr50 million (£19.7 million) on its loans to Omni Holding, the Swiss holding company.

Georges Blum, a Swiss Bank director, announced the potential loss as the group revealed a 13 per cent fall in net profits to Sfr820 million. The bank maintained its dividend at Sfr14 a share.

Mr Blum said the bank had cut its exposure to Omni last year. Omni was a big shareholder in ILG, the collapsed airline group, and has applied for court protection from its creditors.

Part of Swiss Bank's lending is guaranteed by Omni's 53 per cent stake in Adia, the employment agency, and Mr Blum said the bank's loss would be no more than Sfr50 million.

Swiss Bank for the first time announced consolidated accounts, which included figures from 80 majority-held subsidiaries. One of the largest is SBCI, the London securities offshoot.

The bank's profits were hit by the invasion of Kuwait, which caused Swiss interest rates to rise. The bank also suffered from the slump in world stock and securities markets. In 1989, commission fees accounted for almost a third of the bank's income, mainly from capital markets.

COMPANY BRIEFS

SPANDEX (Fin) Pre-tax: £4.3m (£4.81m) EPS: 24.4p (34.8p) Div: 3.75p, mkg 5.5p	Turnover £41.8m (£37.4m). Total payout last time 5p. European expansion should more than compensate for less buoyant UK.
TRY GROUP (Fin) Pre-tax: £1.80m (£4.37m) EPS: 6.2p (11.5p) Div: 4p, mkg 6p (6p)	Housing land writedown meant £1.65m exceptional debit. Provision of £4.54m made on the closure of the property development division.
RPS GROUP (Fin) Pre-tax: £1.74m (£1.72m) EPS: 9.49p (9.39p) Div: 1.8p, mkg 3.2p	Total dividend last time was 2.8p. Turnover was £9.63m (£8.76m). Extraordinary debit of £49,000 (nil last year).
GENT (SR) (Int) Pre-tax: £1.25m (£1.36m) EPS: 1.9p (2.3p) Div: 1.25p (1.25p)	Turnover grew to £72.1m (£58.9m). Net interest costs rose to £1.75m (£1.1m). Vigorous analysis of overheads undertaken.
NARBOROUGH PLANTS. Pre-tax: £146,000 EPS: 1.10p (1.51p) Div: 0.5p (0.5p)	Interim results. Last time's pre-tax profit was £201,000. The interim dividend will be paid on June 22.
NORTH MIDLAND CONST. Pre-tax: £1.02m EPS: 6.5p (5.2p) Div: 0.75p, mkg 1.25p	Final results. Last time's pre-tax profit, £815,000. Last time's total dividend, 1.0p. Group turnover increased to £24m (£22.1m).

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

	Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000
Abbey Nat	1,798	Cadbury	1,276	L&G	867	Royal Bnk	[illegible]
Alld-Lyons	1,304	CU	1,151	Lloyds	1,383	Royal Ins	[illegible]
Anglian	840	Courtaulds	395	Lonrho	758	Sainsbury	[illegible]
ASDA	2,401	Dalgety	698	Lucas	6,842	Scot & N	[illegible]
AB Foods	137	Enterprise	878	M&S	4,467	Sears	1,172
Argyll	992	Eurotunnel	1,178	Maxwell Cm	375	Severn Trnt	748
BAA	4,354	Fisons	3,682	MEPC	688	Shell	[illegible]
BET	2,270	Gen Acc	192	Midland	6,902	Smith & N	1,721
BTR	10,805	GEC	5,474	Nat West	3,862	SK Beech	[illegible]
BAT	2,258	Glaxo	2,315	N W Water	2,034	Sun Alnce	771
Barclays	3,869	Grand Met	4,728	P&O	1,133	Tarmac	[illegible]
Bass	290	GUS 'A'	212	Pearson	291	Tate Lyle	1,982
BICC	1,259	GRE	1,197	Pilkington	1,065	TSB	[illegible]
Bk Scotlnd	4,327	GKN	631	Prudential	6,513	Tesco	[illegible]
Blue Circle	1,387	Guinness	1,476	Racal	2,129	Thames Wtr	1,449
BOC	716	Hanson 'A'	254	Rk Hovis	1,530	Thorn EMI	591
Boots	2,148	Hanson	11,003	Rank	642	Trafalgar	1,912
Br Aero	2,097	H & C	1,259	R&C	157	THF	1,716
Br Airways	1,818	Hawker	489	Redland	926	Ultramar	1,391
Br Gas	5,400	Hillsdown	6,433	Reed	966	Unilever	[illegible]
Br Petrol	12,048	ICI	941	Reuters	973	United Bis	[illegible]
Br Steel	6,246	Kingfisher	1,059	RMC Gp	89	Wellcome	342
Br Telecm	10,802	Lasmo	2,080	RTZ	8,355	Whitbrd	1,049
Burmah Cst	725	Ladbroke	3,702	R-Royce	2,304	Wig Teape	778
C&W	1,798	Land Sec	1,230	Rothmn 'B'	190	Wills Cor	2,250

BTR's new man lays out his plans

COMMENT

Logically, if we continue the way we are, we will end up owning every company in the world, and they would all be out-performing. Thus BTR's John Cahill caricatures the group's strategy for the Nineties. Simply stated, this involves selling off the parts where the profit performance cannot be improved, and investing the proceeds in a new bunch of low-performing assets.

It all sounds pretty similar to the BTR strategy for the Eighties, and the Seventies for that matter. But Alan Jackson, the Australian who stepped into Cahill's shoes as chief executive ten weeks ago, evidently believes that the beginning of a new era demands a re-stating of group policy.

But there is also a hint of sensitivity to recent criticism of the group's acquisition policy. Mr Jackson argues quite reasonably that its failure to clinch a major takeover deal should be regarded as a strength rather than a weakness at a time when prices were grossly inflated by junk bond merchants.

BTR left little doubt in City minds yesterday that the next big acquisition is not far off, and that it will quite likely focus on the UK, a hint that enlivened dealings in the shares of Pilkington, which remains a prime candidate for a BTR bid. While it will be ultimately financed, partly by the sale of existing businesses, there was a clear message that the group will be raising new equity.

Mr Jackson looks as if he is injecting a fresh urgency into BTR, and it may not all be to do with the return to sanity in the marketplace following the demise of the junk bond, or with the less defensive postures adopted by recession-hit industries and governments. BTR needs an acquisition to drive its profits growth.

For all the group's strengths, it could not prevent a near 10 per cent drop in earnings per share in 1990, the first setback that any board member present yesterday could remember.

Dollar weakness, of the American and the Australian variety, are a ready scapegoat for much of the setback.

But while Cahill professed satisfaction with the group's performance in the face of worldwide recession, his successor must ensure that reporting downturns in profit does not become a habit.

Visible snags

If Britain's invisible trade really ran a surplus of £700 million a month at the end of last year, as the CSO now believes, then some of the country's deepest economic problems, as well as the government's biggest headaches, might seem to have been a mere statistical illusion.

Subtracting £700 million from monthly trade deficits in the region of £1 billion would leave the current account for 1991 less than £4 billion in the red, instead of the £11 billion the Treasury projected last November.

Why, then, was market reaction so muted? The simple answer was that analysts found the figures unbelievable. The third quarter surplus was more than doubled on revision, so the figure for the fourth quarter could just as easily be halved in a few months' time.

Suspicions were aggravated by the fact that virtually all the apparent improvement was in the "interest profits and dividends" lines of the invisible balance, notoriously the most slippery of all official figures.

To make matters worse, the shifts in bank interest earnings seemed to defy economic logic. The statisticians had assumed that the combination of high British interest rates, strong sterling and large capital inflows into the pound would lead to a sharp deterioration in the second half. Instead net interest earnings improved by £1 billion.

But with all the caveats, the CSO's statistics are based on the best information available. Assuming even that the fourth quarter figures were an aberration, the full year invisible surplus of £5.1 billion may well be about right.

If this is true then Britain does have something to show for all the capital outflows of the Eighties — and our economic predicament is not nearly as bad as we previously believed.

Bad omens

While there are special circumstances surrounding the three quarters fall in Henry Ansbacher's profits and reduced dividend, the figures are still an ill omen for the start of the merchant banks' reporting season. Ansbacher lent almost 5 per cent of its capital to Roger Levitt and suffered accordingly.

Today Kleinwort Benson is expected to serve up a far worse set of results, and its problems are more deep-seated than the plight of one entrepreneurial customer.

The slump in the securities market and the mergers and acquisition market would have depressed Kleinwort's profits in any case. But a £33 million loss on the sale of a stake in Premier Consolidated has rubbed a barrel of salt into the wound. The bank is now tipped to be closing all or part of its securities business.

Kleinwort has been the greatest victim of the downturn in the City but even Schroders and SG Warburg have felt the chill.

The recovery in the equities market, if sustained, will soon reanimate idle corporate finance departments, but until then the effects of the recession on the City will show themselves to have been as painful as in the rest of the economy.

BA finds a cloud in clearer skies over Atlantic

BRITISH Airways will hardly have time to level off from the turbulence created by the opening of Heathrow to strong competition, before American and British aviation officials begin fresh talks designed to scrap the system which involves governments deeply in decisions over which airline is allowed to fly where.

Paul Gretch, director of the office of international affairs at the American transportation department in Washington, said: "What we want is to explode the whole system and make it totally open for both sides." Mr Gretch was the leading negotiator for the American team that won agreement for the United and American airlines to fly into Heathrow.

He added: "We would like to see a greater access both in the number of gateways and in the number of American carriers which can fly into the UK, in exchange for their being able to fly through and on from the US. We would hope that eventually all US carriers would have the right to service the UK market from any US city."

These controversial topics will be on the table within three months, but not for the first time. The Americans claim they pushed the virtues of a transatlantic open skies policy 15 months ago when Cecil Parkinson was transport secretary. Those talks were grounded over two issues: cabotage, which would have allowed British carriers to compete with the US airlines from city to city within America, and direct foreign ownership of US airlines, which is restricted to no more than 25 per cent of the votes.

Sympathetic: Samuel Skinner, US transportation secretary

Mr Gretch said: "At the time, the US was unable to discuss those questions, but the two transport secretaries [America's Samuel Skinner and Britain's Malcolm Rifkind] have committed their sides to a renewed exploration of liberalisation. I think that means all questions are back on the table."

The first shot at liberalisation this week failed to win universal approval. The British government's decision to accept a report from the Civil Aviation Authority and open Heathrow to all comers, was followed by its approval of the transfer of 12 Heathrow routes, replacing the financially weak Pan American and Trans World Airlines with the number one and two US carriers, United and American. The two paid less than £400 million as an entry price.

In exchange, Britain can nominate a second carrier into the US; a British carrier will be able to fly from six continental European destinations into America; the number of cities in Latin America, Canada and Asia to which a British airline may continue after a US stopover will be increased; and BA will be able to fly from New York to Seattle and thence to Sydney.

America's transport department says it has also granted BA rights to fly an unrestricted number of flights to Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia from three American gateways, which have yet to be named.

BA feels the agreement gave it the worst of all worlds, resulting in increased and tougher competition across the Atlantic, no real access to the American market and a fly-through Australian route via Seattle when it wanted the route through Los Angeles.

The agreement has, however, offered increased opportunities for Richard Branson's Virgin Airlines. American analysts say the competition will benefit the consumer. United and American are expected to increase the quality of their in-flight service to meet the standards set by BA, stage promotional campaigns in Britain and set bargain fares for inaugural flights this summer.

The frequency of United and American flights is also likely to increase sharply. American officials say Pan Am and TWA last year sought a considerable increase in the number of flights they wanted the option to operate in 1991.

Meanwhile, America has moved little on loosening the rules on foreign ownership. While Mr Skinner says officials are to look sympathetically at proposals that entail a foreigner controlling up to half the votes in an American airline, the law remains that no one except American citizens citizens may control more than 25 per cent.

A bill would have to pass through Congress to change the rule. Legislation would also be needed to allow foreign airlines to collect passengers in America and ferry them round the country.

In the 88-year history of aviation, the weekend's pact was the end of an era for the two American airlines that once dominated the jet age. For those who need to get into the business of offering a global service to dominate the world, it looks the beginning of another.

PHILIP ROBINSON
New York

Hillsdown puts future in food

TEMPUS

WHEN the books come to be written about who did what during the recession of the early Nineties, the name of Hillsdown Holdings will be writ large.

Chairman Harry Solomon is not a man to go on the defensive. He prefers to spend. Hillsdown's recession-beating shopping spree included Premier Brands (bought in 1989 for £182 million), Canada Packers (Hillsdown has a 56 per cent stake in Canada's biggest food processer) and Strong & Fisher, the leather group.

Pre-tax profits may have edged up to £191 million in the year to end-December (£189 million) but earnings per share have fallen for the first time in Hillsdown's history, from 29.6p to 25.3p, mainly due to a 12 per cent increase in the number of shares in issue.

Hillsdown's gearing rose from 63.5 per cent to 72 per cent. Further damage to the balance sheet has been done by £76.1 million of extraordinary costs. As a result, retained profit drops from £108 million to £17.4 million.

There is, however, much to encourage elsewhere. Hillsdown's corporate strategy is now clear. With Premier Brands and Canada Packers on board, 84 per cent of Hillsdown's sales and operating profits are derived from food. The target appears to be 100 per cent, indicating that non-food activities such as furniture, housebuilding and property, where combined operating profits fell 55 per cent to £42.8 million, are not part of the company's future.

Food certainly appears to be what Hillsdown does best. Despite the acquisition of the low margin Canada Packers, operating margins from the group's food companies rose a full point to 5.8 per cent.

The 11 per cent increase in the final dividend to 6p (5.4p) makes 8p (7.2p). With the dividend covered more than three times and interest cover of more than four times, shareholders look secure. Up 8p to 244p yesterday, the shares are on a multiple of under 10. Buy.

Enterprise Oil

THE short-term outlook for British oil independents such as Enterprise is geared to the sterling oil price. Last year, that averaged £12.90 per barrel, thanks to high prices in the autumn. Now it stands at £10.30, although the exchange rate, at least, has started moving in the right direction.

Enterprise expects an 11 per cent rise in production this year, after an 18 per cent advance last year. Unless the oil price gap closes, therefore, management's prized financial skills will be sorely tested, getting close to maintaining earnings, which rose by a fifth to 34.4p per share last year.

Given constant prices, there would be plenty of growth over the next few years. Enterprise plans to double production to 250,000 barrels per day of oil equivalent by the middle of the decade on the back of current North Sea developments.

That level would be near the peak, so Enterprise would still need more to improve on its current rating. At 588p, down with the rest of the market in recent weeks, the shares sell at 17 times last year's earnings and yield 3.4 per cent in dividend. However they stand at a discount to the conservative value of the group's 944 million barrels of reserves.

Beyond the North Sea, Enterprise has had no instant success exploring off the Vietnamese coast. More than £250 million will be needed for field development this year, so the group may well cut back on a similar sum earmarked for exploration and appraisal and buy more proven acreage. Widely differing market views offer scope for canny dealing.

Such a prospect excites fears of a rights issue in the City. Enterprise has, however, shown no disposition to shoot itself in the foot. The shares are a core long-term investment, but prey to oil-price vagaries.

T&N

T&N makes no apology for its reliance on its automotive business, which accounts for 65 per cent of the whole, although this will be reduced to the half-way mark in time.

The company believes that with its slimmer cost base and higher efficiency it will be in a position to speed ahead when the automotive industry lights change from amber to green.

T&N has, meanwhile, an industrial and engineering side which is doing rather better than its automotive brother — though not strong enough to offset the automotive weakness.

The group has also taken a £14 million redundancy knife to costs, cutting 2,400 jobs out of a 42,000 workforce by the end of February. So T&N's profit outcome for the year ended December 31 was a pre-tax £70.5 million, down from £84 million, which does further damage to an already unimpressive net earnings record. The final dividend is held at 7.25p,making 10.85p (10.75p) a share.

T&N is a case where investment patience could eventually be rewarded. The trappings of the old Turner & Newall group are all but shaken off, and the "new" T&N is almost starting to rise. Though the return on average capital employed was down in 1990 from 22 per cent to 17 per cent, the 25 per cent return hurdle is still one T&N is determined to cross.

This will be a tough year for T&N, and real profits recovery can only seriously be expected in 1992 and 1993. But as world economies turn up, and group markets improve, T&N should at least be on the starting blocs.

Pre-tax profits could merely stand still at £70 million this year, and then rise to £87 million in 1992. At 187p, down 9p, the shares trade on 13.9 and 11.2 times earnings, respectively. However, until net earnings establish a definitive uptrend, the shares look fully priced.

Nuclear budgets for longer life

EXTENDING the lives of Britain's Magnox nuclear power stations will allow Nuclear Electric, the state-owned power company, to generate £1 billion of electricity at 1.5p a unit, substantially below the price of any alternative power source, John Collier, the chairman, said yesterday.

If all the extensions are approved, the profitability of Nuclear Electric could be transformed. Prospects would also increase for the abolition of the fossil fuel levy, which compels coal, oil, and gas burning generators to subsidise the nuclear industry.

The prospect of cheap nuclear power could help contain power price rises, and help the nuclear industry improve its public image.

Mr Collier insisted that Nuclear Electric would not build more atomic plants unless they were commercially viable.

At a London conference organised by the Institute of Energy, he predicted that Nuclear Electric would achieve an operating profit in the year ending this month "very similar" to last year's £220 million. Mr Collier reported improvements in the operating efficiency of the seven remaining Magnox stations and five advanced gas cooled reactors (AGRs).

He said that if the recent price increases for volume users imposed by British Gas are maintained, they will push up the price of power from combined cycle gas turbine plants to between 2.5p and 2.9p a unit (per kilowatt hour).

The Magnox stations currently generate electricity at 5p a unit, including decommissioning costs. AGR stations, which have yet to reach full efficiency, generate at 6.5p a unit. Sizewell B is expected to produce power at 5p a unit when completed.

PowerGen and National Power, the two newly privatised generating companies, averaged a cost of 3.4p a unit in the year to March last year, against a price of 4.8p in the same period by Nuclear Electric, he said.

ROSS TIEMAN
Industrial Correspondent

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Beau goes international

MICHAEL Alen-Buckley, one of the best dressed stockbrokers in the Square Mile — and member, by marriage, of the Forte family — has left James Capel to take up a post at Smith New Court. Alen-Buckey, Rocco Forte's brother-in-aw, has spent just over three and a half years at Capel and will join SNC at the end of ıext month to co-ordinate ales to American clients. He will work with Michael Da-ids, the director responsible or the firm's international lient base. "I am extremely nthusiastic about the post," ays Alen-Buckley, aged 33, vho attended Ampleforth, the oman Catholic school in orkshire before training as a hartered accountant with picer & Pegler. After a spell ith CT Bowring, he joined ielding Newson Smith & Co, ne broker that was taken over y County NatWest in April 986. Known for his impeccable grooming — his suits are ailored by Fallan & Harvey nd his shirts by Woods & rown — Alen-Buckley leaves oon for a long Easter break in taly with Gianni, his tele-ision producer wife, and eir two children.

Outward bound

ACK Summerscale, head of K equity research at arclays de Zoete Wedd and ne of the firm's longest-rving employees, is leaving ie Square Mile. Summerscale, who trained as an accountant with Coopers & Lybrand before joining de Zoete & Bevan in 1970 as an analyst, has spent 21 years with the firm, becoming a partner in 1985, and rising up the ranks to his most recent position in December 1989. Now seeking "a change of direction outside the City", he will stay on at BZW until the end of April, to ensure a smooth handover to Bill Smith, former chief equity strategist. Smith, aged 36, who trained as an actuary — that curious profession said to be for accountants who find accountancy too exciting — spent seven years as a fund manager with Standard Life before spending five years at Prudential Bache. Helping him in his new task is Robert Lister, a senior analyst and director of BZW Research.

"He is out having his eyes tested"

THE recession has prompted Dorset Chamber of Commerce and Industry to take some fairly drastic action: it has set up a Business Samaritan helpline for companies struggling to make ends meet.

Cold card call

OUR tale of Roger Levitt and his colourful Christmas cards has offered further insight into the way the Levitt Group worked. It seems that two different sets of cards were drawn up, 12,000 of them destined for the company and a further 500 for Levitt himself, all at a cost of £4,599.50. While less than our earlier estimate of £20,000, the bill, nevertheless, remains unpaid. The company card, in keeping with the failed group's image as a one-stop financial centre, features a Father Christmas and two reindeer crashing in through the side of the company's head office. They are then shown blasting out the other side clutching a life insurance policy each, with a Levitt salesman in toe, who is grinning from ear to ear at the thought of the commission he has just earned. "It obviously tickled his ego," says James Kelsey, the unpaid designer, who unwittingly helped heap misfortune on his own head by using a Levitt trick of the trade. "It was my first job for the company and I cold-called them," he says.

Budgetary bliss

BEING married, according to the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University, buys £20,000 worth of happiness. Translating happiness into monetary terms, the study claims that if a person is single, he or she will have to earn £28,000 to be as happy as a married person earning only £8,000. Marriage is the "single most important source of a satisfying life," says the report . . .

Paperless trade

THOUSANDS of New York's homeless, who have been moonlighting as freelance New York *Daily News* salesmen during a four-month strike at the tabloid paper, have been forced to return to their previous profession — begging. Robert Maxwell, proprietor of the *Daily Mirror*, may have saved many of the paper's 1,800 jobs after reaching agreement yesterday with the ten striking unions, but he nipped in the bud the new careers of more than 10,000 homeless who had been given free copies of the tabloid to sell on subway platforms for whatever price they could get. The homeless were averaging 25 cents a copy in the rush hour. The *Daily News*, eager to retain some advertising revenue by getting the paper distributed, thus gave away bundles of the afternoon edition. The paper will now be distributed through normal channels.

CAROL LEONARD

SRGENT PLC

	Half year to 31 Dec 1990	Half year to 31 Dec 1989
Turnover	£72.1m	£58.9m
Pre-tax Profit	£1.3m	£1.4m
Taxation	£0.6m	£0.5m
Earnings per share	1.9p	2.3p
Dividends per share	1.25p	1.25p

★ Sales strong in U.K.

★ Some pressure on margins late in the period

★ Episode stores on target

★ Dividend held

Peter Wolff
Chairman

The summarised results for the half year to 31 December 1990 which are unaudited have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies adopted in the accounts for the year to 30 June 1990.

The contents of this advertisement for which the directors of S.R. Gent plc are solely responsible have been approved for the purposes of the Financial Services Act 1986 by Price Waterhouse who are authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on Investment business. Past performance is not necessarily an indication of future performance.

An important announcement to our stockholders:

Copies of the 1990 Annual Report of Citicorp can now be obtained from:-

Citibank, N.A., 336 Strand, London WC2R 1HB, telephone 071- 438 0959 between the hours of 9.30am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Postal applications should be addressed for the attention of Lynne Letts, Corporate Affairs.

CITIBANK®

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Incorporated in the State of Delaware

Alfa-Laval bid halt extended

THE European Commission has extended its suspension of the bid by Tetra Pak, the packaging group, for Alfa-Laval, the agricultural and engineering group.

The Commission must either approve the deal or launch a full-scale monopolies enquiry next week. It said in a statement the extension would not prejudice its decision.

Minorco move

Minorco, the Luxembourg group, has subscribed for a 17 per cent stake in Ivernia West, owner of an Irish zinc property, and will appoint a representative to Ivernia's board. Minorco's investment involves £3.17 million, and is the bulk of a 6.9 million placing by Ivernia at Ir£0.53p (48.6p) a share.

French buy

Rentokil, the pest control and property services group, is to buy Michel Gaillard, a Paris tropical plant rental firm for up to Ffr72 million. Gaillard made Ffr4.1 million profit on Ffr68 million sales in the year to August.

Power bond

East Midland Electricity is to raise £150 million via a Eurosterling bond maturing in 2016 at a 11.9 per cent coupon lead-managed by BZW.

Loss at FAI

FAI Insurance, the Australian insurance group, made an interim operating loss of £19.9 million. The half-time dividend falls 1 cent to 4 cents.

Oil purchase

BHP, the Australian mining group, is to buy Hamilton Oil Corporation for $40 per share.

STOCK MARKET

Nomura is big buyer of shares in power groups

NOMURA, the Japanese securities house, has emerged as the big buyer of shares in National Power and PowerGen, the two electricity generators, which raced to unexpectedly high premiums when dealings started on Tuesday.

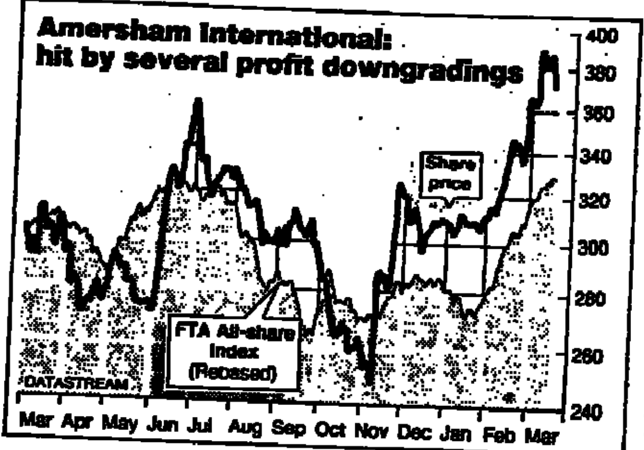
The two rose again yesterday with National Power up 2p to 139½p, as 74 million shares changed hands, and PowerGen 1½p better at 138½p on a turnover of 61 million shares.

The surge in the shares from their opening level of 100p partly-paid had been attributed to stake-building by French or other continental investors, but this was later denied.

Nomura has been keen to buy on behalf of its clients, particularly those in Japan where electricity groups trade on far lower yields than those of the two British companies, even at their current prices. Some sources claimed that more than 100 million shares may have gone to the Japanese house and its clients.

The rest of the equity market spent another dull day as investors' attention was partly on Cheltenham. Turnover was another healthy 830 million shares, but the power generators accounted for a large proportion of this. The FT-SE 100 index lost an early lead to finish 6.6 lower at 2,448.2, while the FT index of 30 shares ended 4.3 up at 1,952.1.

Government securities encountered scattered selling but managed to close off the bottom with falls of about £½.



Amersham International: hit by several profit downgradings

Glaxo fell 28p to 964p amid claims that broker Kleinwort Benson had become bearish. This affected **Fisons**, which fell 12p to 470p, **Wellcome**, 10p lower at 498p, and **SmithKline Beecham A**, 8p down at 745p.

Amersham International, the diagnostics group, fell 17p to 369p as at least two big securities houses took negative views. Cazenove, the company's own broker, is believed to have reduced its profit estimate for the current year by 20 per cent to £16 million. This compares with almost £24 million last time. Warburg Securities is also thought to have become a seller.

Sales in the final quarter were flat. The cost of radioactive isotopes, Amersham's key raw material, has also been rising.

BTR advanced 26p to 402p despite the first drop in pre-tax profits for more than 22 years, from £1.08 billion to £966 million. But the absence of any fund-raising and the increase in the total dividend were well received in the City.

The group blamed the setback on the weakness of the Australian and American dollars and the recession affecting its automotive, consumer and construction divisions. BTR intends to make some big acquisitions soon. A spokesman said: "The market will be right for acquisitions soon."

A profits setback also left **T&N**, the automotive products group, 8p cheaper at 188p. Full-year pre-tax profits tumbled £14 million to £70 million. T&N spent £14 million shedding 2,400 jobs and gave warning that more will have to go.

A profits warning left **Logitek**, the computer equipment group, 1p easier at 27p. The group says that conditions remain difficult and this will be reflected in the full-year figures.

Unigate, the diary products and road transport group, rose 3p to 327p after announcing that pre-tax profits for the year to the end of this month will fail to meet the City's expectations. The board is forecasting £75 million compared with £105.5 million last time. It blamed the non-food and the poultry operations. **United Biscuits** was unchanged at 375p ahead of figures today.

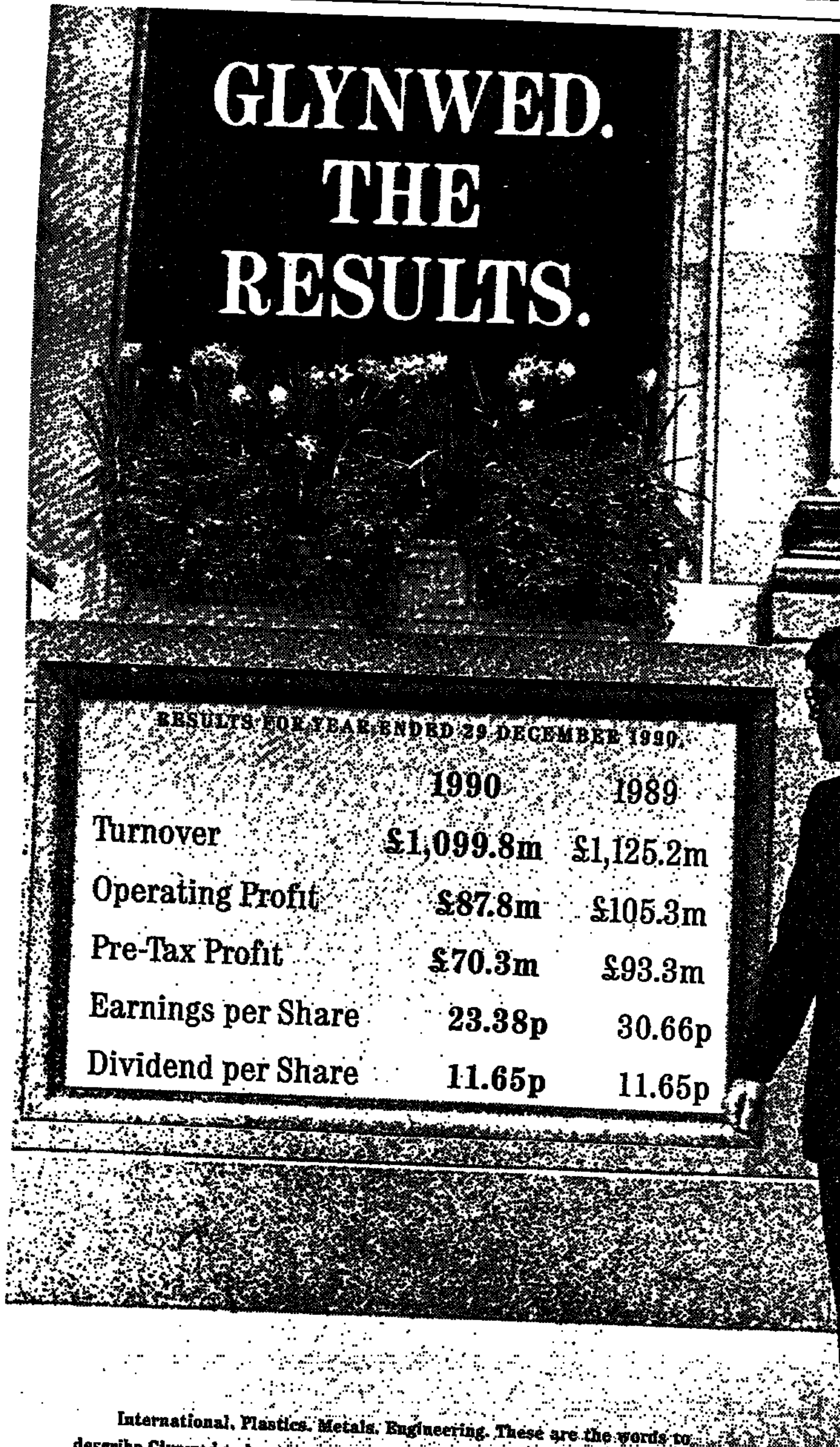
Rank Organisation fell 13p to 726p after a gloomy annual meeting. The group issued a warning that it was feeling the recession in the first part of the current year.

Grand Metropolitan rose 6p to 774p as trading started in its American Depository Receipts facility in New York.

The group also gave a presentation for the 135 bankers which make up the consortium financing its brewery-for-pubs exchange with Courage.

MICHAEL CLARK

Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, says that now the duopoly report has been endorsed by British Telecom, the way is now clear for the government to sell *its* remaining 49 per cent. Patrick Hickey, an analyst, says that the sale is likely in the autumn after the two Scottish electricity companies are sold off. He says that *BT* remains cheap compared with many of its foreign rivals. BT firmed 3p to 335p.



RESULTS FOR YEAR ENDED 29 DECEMBER 1990

	1990	1989
Turnover	£1,099.8m	£1,125.2m
Operating Profit	£87.8m	£105.3m
Pre-Tax Profit	£70.3m	£93.3m
Earnings per Share	23.38p	30.66p
Dividend per Share	11.65p	11.65p

International. Plastics. Metals. Engineering. These are the words to describe Glynwed today.

Around a third of sales are now overseas. Glynwed's fastest growing business is in advanced thermoplastic systems for industry and utilities, worldwide.

The Group's expanded metals' distribution network is among the leading European suppliers of stainless steel.

Glynwed has invested significantly in growth markets in recent years, and is well placed to meet the international challenges of the future.

Glynwed International plc

THE 1990 REPORT & ACCOUNTS WILL BE POSTED TO SHAREHOLDERS IN MID-MAY. FOR A COPY PLEASE WRITE TO THE GROUP SECRETARY, GLYNWED INTERNATIONAL PLC, HEADLAND HOUSE, NEW COVENTRY ROAD, SHELDON, BIRMINGHAM B26 3AZ.

Dow lifted by rate hopes

New York

BLUE chips advanced in mid-morning dealings after Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, said that the credit squeeze presented risks to the economy and that further action on interest rates may be needed. The Dow Jones industrial average was 8.42 higher at 2,930.94 at 10.30am.

Joseph Di Chiacchio, the head of institutional trading at Sanford C Bernstein, said that Mr Greenspan's comments raised hopes of a further easing in monetary policy. He said the higher than expected retail sales figures for February also helped. *(Reuter)*

HK retreats for second day running

Hong Kong

PRICES eased for the second consecutive day as the bulls sat back to digest the sharp run-up of 20.15 per cent during the previous ten weeks.

The Hang Seng index dropped 23.59 points to 3,634.48. The broader-based Hong Kong index fell 15.37 points to 2,384.48 on a turnover of HK$1.33 billion (£91.6 million) compared with HK$1.26 billion on Tuesday. Brokers attributed the retreat more to a lack of buying than concerted selling, although limited profit taking by local speculators was reported.

Brokers said that a rise by the HK Bank had cushioned the slide. The HK Bank, which led the list of the most active shares, climbed 15 cents to HK$5.60 despite reporting a 35 per cent decline in last year's profits. Brokers said the market had absorbed the news. *(Reuter)*

Tokyo falls 309 points

Tokyo

SHARES ended a five-day run of advances after investors took Wall Street's drop on Tuesday as a signal to slow down. The Nikkei index dropped 309.10 points, or 1.16 per cent, to 26,418.32.

Turnover was a light 500 million shares, unchanged from Tuesday.

Dealers said that wariness over the dollar/yen rate and the American economy as well as the prospect of lower interest rates put investors on the sidelines.

- **Frankfurt** — A sharp fall in the price of Siemens, the electronics group, tipped the balance in an otherwise featureless market and pulled prices 1.9 per cent lower. The Dax index ended 29.42 points lower at 1,542.19.
- **Sydney** — Investors ignored disappointing profit results to push the market to a high for the year. The All-Ordinaries index scored its fourth consecutive daily gain with a 2.8-point rise to 1,432.2.
- **Singapore** — The market closed mixed after selective bargain hunting had alternated with profit taking. The Straits Times industrial index ended at 1,485.19, up 7.64 points. *(Reuter)*

MAJOR INDICES

New York:
Dow Jones .... 2931.68 (+9.16)*
S&P Composite .... 371.25 (+1.22)*
Tokyo:
Nikkei Average ... 26418.32 (-309.10)
Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 3634.48 (-23.59)
FT-SE Euro 100 ...... 1074.17 (-11.06)
Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency .... 91.5 (-0.6)
Sydney: AO .... 1432.2 (+2.8)
Frankfurt: DAX .... 1542.19 (-29.42)
Brussels:
General .... 5768.69 (-47.79)
Paris: CAC .... 477.30 (-2.98)
Zurich: SKA Gen .... 546.6 (-4.5)
London:
FT—A All-Share .... 1193.82 (-1.90)
FT—"500" .... 1312.22 (-2.38)
FT. Gold Mines .... 146.1 (+0.3)
FT. Fixed interest .... 93.29 (-0.11)
FT. Govt Secs .... 84.47 (-0.54)
Bargains 45724
SEAQ volume 830.6m
USM (Datastream) .... 133.13 (+1.60)

*Denotes latest trading price

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Atlantis Resources	37
Aberforth Smlr (100p)	118
Brabant Res (155p)	134
CMW Group (30p)	51 +3
Castle Cairn (50p)	38
EFM Java Tst (80p)	39
East German Inv	119
Eidos (100p)	62 -1
Elonbrook	69 +1
Europe Energy	14
Faber Prest (175p)	127 -2
Foreign & Col	50
Highcroft Inv	165
Invergordon (135p)	161 +3
Lavercrest (108p)	69
MMEC	3½
MMI (20p)	23½
Malaysia Capital	£7⅛
Midland Radio	96
Pelican Gp (50p)	25 +1
Prosaus Ins (84p)	106 +1
Seton Healthcare	165
Smaller IT	81
Stand Platform (225p)	171
Tr Euro Gwth (100p)	100
Tmp Inv Tst	44
Utd Uniform	88
Unichem (100p)	147
Wig Tpe App	222 -4

● *See main prices page for Electricity shares*

RIGHTS ISSUES

Baynes (Charles) N/P	9½
Clinicy Hospital N/P	30 +1
Resort Hotels N/P	20 +1
Wilkes N/P	22 +1

(Issue price in brackets).

WALL STREET

	Mar 13 midday	Mar 12 close
Abbott Lab	47	46
Aetna Life	44	45
Ahmanson	16	16
Air Prods	65	65
Albertsons	40	40
Alcan Al	23	23
Alco Stand	32	32
Allied Signal	29	29
Alumin CA	68	67
Am Brands	46	46
Am Cyanamid	54	54
Am EPC	28	28
Am General	37	37
Am Home	58	58
Am Intl	93	94
Am Medical	5	5
Am Stores	77	75
Amax	28	28
Amer Hess	48	48
Ameritech	65	66
Amer	25	25
Amoco	53	53
AMP	62	62
AMR	58	57
Anheuser-B	49	48½
Apple Comp	64	62
Archer-Dan	22	22
Arkla	19	19
Armstrong	28	28
Asarco	27	28
Ashland Oil	32	32
AT&T	33	33
Atlan Richfld	130	129
Auto DP	63	64
Avery Intl	24	24
Avon Prod	41	42
Baltimore	28	28
Banc One	32	32
Bankamerica	32	32
Bard	21	20
Barnett Bk	25	24
Bausch Lomb	80	79
Baxter Intl	31	30
Bec Dickin	72	73
Bell Atlan	47	47
Bellsouth	52	52
Bkr Hughes	26	26
Black Decker	13	13
Block	48	48
Bnkrs Tst NY	46	46
Boeing	48	47
Boise Casc	26	26
Borden	34	34
Brist-Myer	76	76
Browng-Fer	27	26
Burl Nth	29	29
CAI	9	9
Campbell Sp	70	70
Cap Cities	476	469
Capital HC	45	45
Carolina	46	46
Caterpillar	54	54
CBS	165	166
Central SW	42	42
Champion	26	26
Chase Man	14	14
Chem Bnkg	17	17
Chevron	76	75
Chrysler	14	14
Chubb	68	68
Cigna	47	47
Citicorp	15	15
Clbrne Liz	45	46
Clorox	38	38
Cmwlth Edis	39	39
CNA Fincl	87	86
Coastal	31	31
Coca-Cola	52	51
Colgate-Pal	73	73
Colmb Gas	44	45
Compaq	68	68
Conagra	40	40
Cons Edis	24	23
Cons NG	42	42
Cons Rail	46	45
Cooper Ind	49	49
Corning	59	58
CPC Intl	79	80
Crown Cork	64	64
CSX	36	37
Dana	29	29
Dayton-Hud	67	66
Deere	51	50
Delta Air	73	74
Deluxe	38	38
Detroit Ed	28	29
Digital Eq	77	76
Dillard	102	103
Disney	123	123
Dominion	45	45
Donnelley	46	46
Dover	41	41
Dow Chem	52	52
Dow Jones	24	25
Dresser Ind	24	24
Du Pont	37	37
Duke Pwr	27	27
Dun Bradst	46	44
East Kodak	46	46
Eaton	59	59
Emerson El	42	42

	Mar 13 midday	Mar 12 close
Enron	55	55
Entergy	23	23
Ethyl	29	29
Exxon	57	56
Fed NMA	43	43
Fedrl Exprs	39	39
Flt Norstar	16	16
Fluor	50	49
FMC	37	37
Ford Motor	34	33
FPL	29	28
Fst Chicago	22	23
Fst Interst	33	33
Fst Union	21	21
Gannett	38	38
Gen Cinema	23	23
Gen Elec	67	67
Gen Mills	53	53
Gen Motors	39	39
Gen RE	97	98
Gen Signal	42	43
Genentech	25	25
Genuine Pts	40	40
Georgia-Pac	43	43
Gillette	74	73
Goodrich	42	42
Goodyear	22	22
Grace	29	28
Greyhound	30	30
Gt Atlantic	65	64
Gt Western	15	16
GTE	31	31
Hallibrtn	48	48
Heinz	36	37
Hercules	41	41
Hershey Fd	39	39
Hewlett Pkd	46	46
Hilton Htl	42	43
Home Depot	49	49
Homestake	17	17
Honeywell	57	58
Houston Ind	35	35
Hsehld Intl	47	47
Humana	47	47
IBM	127	126
IF&F	81	81
Illinois TW	55	55
Inco	32	32
Ingsol-Rand	46	49
Inland Steel	23	24
Intel	46	45
Intl Paper	60	61
ITT	56	55
James River	26	26
Johnsn Jhsn	87	87
K Mart	39	39
Kellogg	64	65
Kerr-McGee	44	44
Kmbrly-Clrk	84	84
Knight-Rddr	51	51
Lilly	80	80
Limited	24	24
Lin Broadcstg	62	63
Lincln Nat	50	50
Litton Ind	82	82
Lockheed	43	42
Louis-Pac	32	32
Manu Hano	25	25
Marriott	16	16
Marsh Mclen	81	81
Martin Mar	50	49
Masco	21	21
May Dept	52	52
Maytag	13	13
MCA	n/a	n/a
McDnl Doug	39	40
McDonalds	34	33
McGraw-Hill	57	57
MCI Com	28	28
Mead	29	28
Medtronic	112	110
Melville	49	48
Merck	105	105
Merrl Lynch	30	30
MMM	90	90
Mobil	63	63
Monsanto	58	56
Moore	24	24
Morgan	44	44
Motorola	61	60
Nat Medical	48	48
Nat Semi	7	7
Nat Service	26	28
Navistar	4	3
NCNB	30	30
NCR	97	98
NBD Bncp	37	37
Newmont Min	38	38
Niagr Mhwk	14	14
Nike	62	62
NL Indstrs	13	13
Nordstrom	34	33
Norfk Sthn	44	44
Norwest	24	24
Nthn St Pwr	33	34
Nthn Telcom	31	31
NY Times	22	22
Nynex	75	75
Occid Petl	19	19
Ohio Ed	18	17
Oracle Sys	8	8

	Mar 13 midday	Mar 12 close
Oryx Energy	38	38
Pac Ent	41	41
Pac Gas Elec	24	24
Pac Telesis	41	40
Paccar	40	39
Pacificorp	21	21
Pall	32	32
Paramount	41	41
Parker-Hanfn	25	25
Penney	53	54
Pennzoil	70	70
Pepsico	31	31
Pfizer	101	103
Phlps Pet	27	27
Phila Elec	12	19
Philip Morris	66	66
Phelps Dodge	67	67
Pitney Bow	52	52
Placer Dome	14	14
PNC Fncl	29	29
Prmce Enrn	14	14
Polaroid	26	26
PPG Inds	52	51
Proc Gmble	84	84
Prime	41	41
Primerica	30	31
Pub Service	20	20
Quaker Oats	58	50
Ralston Pur	53	53
Raychem	29	29
Raytheon	76	70
Reebok	22	22
Roadway	44	44
Rockwell	27	28
Rohm Haas	43	43
Royal Dutch	n/a	n/a
Rubbermaid	45	45
Rynlds Mtl	63	62
Safeco	38	39
Salomon	27	28
Santa Fe Pac	7	7
Sara Lee	37	37
Schecorp	38	38
Schlmbrgr	61	61
Schrg-Plgh	49	50
Scott Papr	45	45
Seagram	93	93
Sears Rbk	32	32
Secrty Pac	27	27
Shrwn-Willms	43	44
Skyline	16	16
Snap-on Tls	30	30
Southern	27	27
St Paul	68	67
Stanley Wk	35	35
Stone Cntr	14	14
Sun Co	33	33
Suntrst Bk	27	28
Super Valu	27	27
SW Bell	53	53
Syntex	73	73
Sysco	36	37
Tandem	14	14
Tandy	33	33
Tele-comm	15	14
Teledyne	22	22
Temple-In	37	36
Tenneco	48	48
Texaco	63	63
Texas Inst	41	41
Texas Util	35	36
Textron	31	31
Time Wrnr	106	107
Times Mirr	29	29
Timken	27	27
Torchmark	59	55
Toys R Us	27	28
Transam	37	36
Travelers	22	22
Tribune	43	43
TRW	39	39
Tyco Lab	50	50
UAL	144	146
Un Camp	40	40
Un Carbide	19	19
Un Pacific	71	72
Unilever	86	86
Unisys	5	6
Unocal	28	27
Upjohn	42	42
US West	38	37
Usair Gp	20	21
USF&G	10	10
UST	43	44
USX	30	30
Utd Tech	49	49
Utd Telcom	24	24
VF	24	24
Wal-Mart	36	36
Walgreen	n/a	n/a
Waste Mgmt	41	41
Wells Fargo	76	77
Westg Elec	29	29
Weyerhsr	24	24
Whirlpool	28	28
Whitman	23	23
Winn-Dixie	37	38
Woolworth	32	33
Wrigley	61	60
Wrner-Lamb	78	78
Xerox	58	58

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Allied Lyons (*349)	500	58	65	80	4½	12	16
	550	21	34	50	18	31	35
	600	6	18	27	55	62	63
ASDA (*139)	120	21	27	29	1	2½	5
	130	13	20	22	2	5	7½
	140	6½	13	16	6½	9	12
Bass ([illegible])	1000	62	92	122	15	32	42
	1050	28	62	92	34	55	68
	1100	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	70	87	95
Boots (*365)	300	69	74	80	1	3	4
	330	40	48	56	2	7	10
	360	16	26	36	9	17	20
Br Airways (*157)	140	19	22	27	2½	8	11
	160	9	11	18	10	19	21
	180	3½	5	10	25	33	34
BP (*337)	300	40	47	53	2	6	9
	330	16	26	34	8	15	19
	360	5	13	20	27	31	35
Br Steel (*142)	130	15	18	19	1½	4	5½
	140	7	11	13	4½	8½	11
	160	2	4	6	19	24	25
C & W (*524)	460	74	85	98	2½	10	14
	500	40	56	70	8½	20	27
	550	12	30	44	35	45	50
CU (*516)	460	66	81	86	1½	6	12
	500	33	52	58	9	17	26
	550	8	25	33	38	43	50
Courtauld (*388)	330	62	66	75	1½	4½	6½
	360	34	41	53	4	12	15
	390	13	23	34	15	25	27
GKN (*368)	330	45	60	62	2½	8	13
	360	19	37	43	10	17	25
	390	7	21	30	30	35	40
Grand Met (*771)	700	85	110	125	5	15	20
	750	47	72	92	17	30	38
	800	20	47	66	38	52	60
ICI (*1028)	1000	62	103	120	19	32	47
	1050	35	75	90	39	54	72
	1100	16	52	69	74	85	98
Kingfisher (*452)	390	68	76	84	1	8	10
	420	41	51	64	6	13	17
	460	15	29	41	21	31	35
Ladbroke (*288)	260	36	42	50	4	9	13
	280	21	26	39	9	16	22
	300	11	19	29	18	27	32
Land Sec (*549)	500	57	63	73	3	8	12
	550	19	29	44	15	28	32
	600	3½	10	22	55	62	65
M & S (*249)	220	33	37	43	1	4½	6
	240	17	22	30	4	11	12
	260	5½	13	20	14	21	23
Sainsbury (*348)	300	53	57	67	1	3	5
	330	25	33	44	4	9	12
	360	7½	17	26	18	24	26
Shell (*477)	420	63	78	90	3	5½	8
	460	30	48	57	8	14	20
	500	9	25	35	32	33	40
Smkl Beech (*745)	700	66	88	112	7	17	23
	750	28	57	80	23	33	40
	800	10	33	53	54	60	65
Storehse (*121)	110	13	17	22	3	6	8
	120	7½	11½	15½	6½	11	13
	130	3	7½	–	13	17	–
Trafalgar (*250)	220	36	38	48	4½	13	17
	240	21	28	39	10	22	26
	260	11	18	29	20	33	37
Ultramar (*340)	300	48	60	65	2½	5	8
	330	22	38	47	9	14	18
	360	7	22	29	25	30	33
Unilever (*738)	600	130	132	–	1½	3½	–
	650	80	94	115	4	10	13
	700	37	58	78	14	25	30
	750	10	31	52	43	50	53
Utd Bisc (*375)	330	48	52	60	2	5	9
	360	19	28	40	9	13	18
	390	5	15	22	29	32	36

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAA (*394)	390	25	35	45	18	27	28
	420	12	21	32	33	42	45
	460	5	–	–	70	–	–
BAT Ind (*696)	600	97	105	125	4	11	15
	650	58	70	92	16	30	32
	700	28	45	62	37	47	53
	750	11	26	42	75	80	87
BTR (*402)	360	43	55	61	6	12	16
	390	23	37	43	18	23	45
	420	10	23	30	39	42	44
Br Aero (*609)	550	77	160	110	11	16	22
	600	45	67	77	25	33	37
	650	20	40	54	55	59	62
Br Telecm (*335)	300	44	50	56	2	6½	8
	330	20	30	36	9	16	18
	360	7½	13½	19	26	31	33
Cadbury (*367)	330	47	58	65	3	6	8
	360	25	38	46	10	15	17
	390	9½	21	30	30	30	32
Guinness (*873)	750	130	155	167	4	9	13
	800	87	115	130	12	20	25
	850	52	80	98	28	37	43
GEC (*213)	180	40	43	44	1	3½	3½
	200	23	26	30	3½	8	9
	220	10	13	19	12	16	18
Hanson (*238)	200	42	45½	51	1	3	3½
	220	25	30	37	3½	7	8
	240	11	18	25	11	15	16½
LASMO (*356)	330	40	53	63	6	13	18
	360	20	35	45	20	25	28
	390	12	20	30	42	42	47
P & O (*590)	500	92	97	–	5	10	–
	550	47	60	67	16	24	32
	600	18	35	42	42	48	57
Pilkington (*189)	160	36	37	39	2½	6½	8
	180	21	22	28	7	14	15
	200	10	13	18	18	26	27
Prudential (*235)	200	39	42	44	1½	3½	5½
	220	20	28	31	6	9½	12
	240	8½	17	21	16	18	22

	Series	Calls May	Calls Aug	Calls Nov	Puts May	Puts Aug	Puts Nov
Racal (*214)	180	42	45	50	1½	5	6½
	200	25	31	37	6	9½	12
	220	14	20	26	15	19	20
	240	6	–	–	39	–	–
RTZ (*529)	420	115	122	–	2½	4½	–
	460	73	85	92	8	14	14
	500	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	550	15	31	41	52	52	56
[illegible] (*396)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	360	49	57	64	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	390	28	36	46	13	22	24
	420	14	21	31	30	39	42
Tesco (*265)	233	36	43	–	3½	5	–
	253	18	26	–	6	8	–
	280	6	12	18	23	25	27
Thames W. (*303)	280	35	40	43	4½	9	12
	300	20	27	31	9	19	20
	330	8	12	16	30	38	37
Lucas (*162)	140	27	32	35	4	5	7
	160	12	18	23	11	12	16
	180	5	9	14	23	25	28

	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Fisons (*470)	420	60	72	86	2½	8	10
	460	26	44	60	12	20	21
	500	7	23	38	35	41	39

	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Abbey Nat. (*239)	240	20	–	–	1	–	–
	260	5	–	–	6½	–	–
	280	1½	–	–	24	–	–
Amstrad (*80)	60	19½	23	25	1	2	3½
	70	9½	14	18	1	3½	5½
	80	2½	8	12	3	8	9½
Barclays (*459)	390	72	85	92	1	4½	9
	420	42	60	70	2	11	18
	460	9	32	45	14	27	35
Blue Circ (*266)	240	31	36	42	1½	8½	14
	260	13	23	31	5	14	21
	280	3½	13	20	15	27	31
Br Gas (*234)	220	34	42	44	1	2½	4½
	240	15	26	27	2	6	10½
	260	3	13	15½	10	14	20
Dixons (*190)	160	30	36	40	1	3	5½
	180	11	22	26	3	9	12½
	200	3	12	16	17	19	25
Glaxo (*864)	950	38	82	–	9	37	–
	1000	12	57	–	34	54	–
	1050	3	35	–	75	85	–
Hawker (*558)	460	105	110	120	1	9	12
	500	65	77	90	3	16	23
	550	25	42	60	13	40	45
Hillsdown (*244)	180	66	70	72	1	2½	5
	200	46	50	56	1	5	9
	220	26	34	44	2	11	14
Lonrho (*236)	220	18	29	34	2	7	12
	240	4½	18	23	8	15	20
	260	1	9½	12	26	28	32
Midland (*199)	160	40	45	50	1	3½	6
	180	21	31	36	2	7½	12
	200	5½	18	25	8	16	20
	220	1	10	16	24	29	33
Reuter (*879)	850	43	–	–	18	–	–
	900	20	–	–	43	–	–
	950	9	–	–	80	–	–
R-Royce (*161)	140	23	28	33	¾	3	5½
	160	6	14	20	4½	9	12
	180	1	6	10½	20	22	24
Sears (*95)	80	16	17	17	1	3	3½
	90	5½	10	11	1½	6	7½
	100	1½	4	6	7	12	12½
THF (*271)	260	12½	21	30	3	11	15
	280	3	13	20	14	23	26
	300	2	5½	13	33	38	40
Thorn EMI (*742)	650	102	120	125	1	5	13
	700	52	79	87	2	12	27
	750	14	45	57	16	31	50
	800	2	23	32	55	62	80
TSB (*153)	130	24	29	32	1	2	2½
	140	14	20	24	1	3	5½
	160	1½	7½	12	9½	10	14
Vaal Reefs (*$60)	50	12	15	17	1	3½	6
	60	3½	9	12	4	8	11
Wellcome (*498)	460	40	67	84	2	17	22
	500	13	43	58	16	33	38
	550	3	21	36	57	64	65

	Series	Mar	May	Aug	Mar	May	Aug
Eastn Elec (*178)	140	38	41	44	1	3	4
	160	18	23	28	2	5½	8½
	180	3½	11	14	7	10½	19
Sthrn Elec (*188)	140	49	52	–	1	2	–
	160	29	35	–	1	2	–
	180	10	17	–	2	5½	–
Elec Pack (*£1960)	1800	170	200	–	15	40	–
	1850	130	160	–	20	60	–
	1900	90	130	–	50	70	–

	Series	Jun	Sep	–	Jun	Sep	–
Nat Power (*139)	130	17	20	–	5½	9	–
	140	12	15	–	8	13	–
	160	4½	7	–	23	26	–

FT-SE INDEX (*2448)

	2300	2350	2400	2450	2500	2550
Calls						
Mar	158	111	70	39	18	7½
Apr	188	144	107	80	52	35
May	198	160	130	95	68	50
Jun	218	180	150	118	93	70
Dec	315	—	255	—	195	—
Puts						
Mar	5	8	18	38	69	110
Apr	17	26	42	60	90	122
May	29	38	56	72	98	130
Jun	37	48	65	80	111	136
Dec	80	—	112	—	155	—

March 13, 1991 Total: 27966 Calls 20777 Puts 7189 FT-SE: Calls 3499 Puts 1671

*Underlying security price.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
March 4	March 15	June 13	June 24

Call options were taken out on: 13/3/91 Body Shop, Burtons, F Cooper, T Cowie, Daras Estates, Doctus, Ezam, Kunick, Lister, Oliver Res, Paxtons, Power Gen, Premier Cons, Richmond Oil & Gas, T&N, SW Wood, WPP Group.

Puts: Bram Walker.

Puts & Calls: Dixons, Midland Bank, Misys, Tusker.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Trading remains dull

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 11. Dealings end March 28. §Contango day April 2. Settlement day April 8.
§Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Lister	Textiles	
2	Mansfield	Breweries	
3	Welsh Water	Water	
4	Reed Int	Newspapers,Pub	
5	Raine Ind	Building,Roads	
6	Budgen	Foods	
7	Lawrence (Walter)	Building,Roads	
8	Bellway	Building,Roads	
9	McAlpine (Alfred)	Building,Roads	
10	Johnson Cleaners	Industrials E-K	
11	Kingfisher	Drapery,Stores	
12	Brake Bros	Foods	
13	TI	Industrials S-Z	
14	Doctus	Industrials A-D	
15	Hunterprint	Paper,Print,Adv	
16	Ratners Group	Drapery,Stores	
17	Capita	Industrials A-D	
18	Prop Security	Property	
19	Alexon	Drapery,Stores	
20	BPP	Newspapers,Pub	
21	Robinson (Thomas)	Industrials L-R	
22	Burton	Drapery,Stores	
23	Morgan Cble	Industrials L-R	
24	BWI	Industrials A-D	
25	Lovell (YJ)	Building,Roads	
26	Calor Gp	Oil,Gas	
27	Williams Hldgs	Industrials S-Z	
28	Eurotunnel Units	Transport	
29	BSS Group	Industrials A-D	
30	Grand Met	Breweries	
31	Trinity Intl	Newspapers,Pub	
32	Charter Cons	Industrials A-D	
33	Wood (SW)	Industrials S-Z	
34	PFG Hodgson	Industrials L-R	
35	Helical Bar	Property	
36	Fletcher King	Property	
37	Ferguson Intl	Paper,Print,Adv	
38	Debenham Tewson	Property	
39	NFC	Transport	
40	News Intl	Newspapers,Pub	
41	Cable Wireless	Electricals	
42	Campari	Leisure	
43	Hillsdown	Foods	
44	Watmough	Paper,Print,Adv	
© Times Newspapers Ltd.		Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

There were no valid claims for yesterday's Portfolio Platinum game.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

BREWERIES

BUILDING, ROADS

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

DRAPERY, STORES

ELECTRICALS

ELECTRICITY

FINANCE, LAND

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

FOODS

HOTELS, CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS A-D

E-K

L-R

S-Z

INSURANCE

Investment Trusts appear on Page 32

LEISURE

MINING

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

OILS, GAS

Portfolio PLATINUM

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SHOES, LEATHER

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

TRANSPORT

WATER

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

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Our strategy for continued success in this highly competitive field places great emphasis on the importance of stringent financial controls and the accuracy of management information. The following roles will therefore be key in contributing to our future direction and profitability, and call for a special blend of commercial flair and interpersonal skills.

BUSINESS ANALYST

As part of our Management Information team you will be providing data to all levels of management, together with appropriate analysis and commentary, in order to help shape future policy and action.

You will be a graduate in a business-related discipline with 1-2 years' commercial experience, and perhaps you are also working towards a CIMA qualification. You must be able to demonstrate the high level of numeracy and computer skills required to develop meaningful management information, as well as the personal qualities needed for its effective communication.

STOCKS SUPERVISOR

Working within the Finance department, you will be responsible for all aspects of the control and reconciliation of stocks of crude oil and finished products held at sites throughout the UK. This will involve you in preparing monthly stock valuations, maintaining purchase records, providing management information on stock movements and liaising extensively both internally and with HM Customs and Excise to ensure timely and accurate payment of import and export duties. You will have two Stocks Clerks assisting you, so you will need to be able to supervise their workload.

Although previous experience in the oil industry is not essential, you will need to hold or be working towards an ACCA qualification, and have a highly disciplined, accurate approach to your work. In addition, computer literacy is a must as you will be expected to develop and implement a stocks computerisation project.

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So if you feel you have the outstanding levels of numeracy and communication skills we're looking for, please write with a full C.V. to: Christine Gunn, Personnel Department, Total Oil Great Britain Limited, Total House, 4 Lancer Square, London W8 4EW.

TOTAL

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You need not necessarily have financial skills now but you will be seeking to move into an environment demanding excellence in technical and financial disciplines and have wider ambitions within Corporate Finance.

To apply telephone David Clarke weekends/evenings on 0293 862247 or during office hours on 071 489 0165 or send your CV to him at Sector Personnel, 12 Well Court, London EC4M 9DN.

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Applications are invited from French speaking accountants to fill a role primarily concerned with the controlling and reporting of accounting information for the UK group for communication to the international parent company.

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The employee package includes a salary circa £25,000, company car and excellent fringe benefits.

In the first instance, please write, in strictest confidence, to DAVID KNOWLES, quoting reference DT/386/DK at PRS Limited, Calpin House, 74-78 Town Centre, Hatfield, Herts. AL10 0JW. Telephone 0707 264422. Telefax 0707 278422.

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Authority Within An Authority

Somerset's gain is our loss, that is for sure, as Ray Spurgeon, our present postholder moves to a prestigious position in that lovely county.

A professional in every respect, he is wholly representative of the calibre of person we anticipate responding to this advertisement.

Allow us to explain.

A weighty position bringing considerable authority and responsibility, you will not just be highly qualified professionally, but recommended by the fact that innovative thought comes naturally.

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c£40k + performance related pay.

You will already have demonstrated this trait as leader of the financial function of a large and complex organisation, and will be fully able to help pioneer the care purchasing role here as an Executive Member at one of the largest District Health Authorities in the country, serving 620,000 people. Our budget for this is £200m, and you will be running a large department covering all aspects of financial management.

A knowledge of the NHS is desirable although not essential. after all, responsible big business is responsible big business whatever the product or sector. So, we welcome applications from within and from outside the NHS, but would stress the senior nature of this key position.

Assistance is available with relocation. The District has a car leasing scheme.

Further information and application forms are available from The Director of Personnel, Forest House, Berkeley Avenue, Nottingham NG3 5RB, telephone Nottingham (0602) 691691 ext. 49241, and the aforementioned Ray Spurgeon will be pleased to answer informal enquiries on ext. 49300.

Closing date: 15th March 1991.

Nottingham Health Authority

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Senior Management Accountant

This intellectually demanding, high-profile position revolves around providing internal financial consultancy to the Region's departments, ensuring that a district accounting service is developed and supported. You will need to call upon your extensive knowledge of modern financial techniques and practices, and experience of computerised management information systems to prepare budgets, expenditure proposals and forecasts.

We are looking for a qualified accountant who is self-motivated, resilient and flexible and above all able to demonstrate a practical, commercially-oriented approach to financial control information. Reference: 700404/T.

Financial Accountant (Taxation)

Providing a consultancy service to senior management, you will be responsible for the optimisation of the Region's tax position, with a particular focus on developing working procedures and standards to ensure that financial requirements and deadlines are met. You will also liaise with the training and development departments to design specialised financial training modules and advise on the selection and review of trainees.

Proven technical accounting expertise, a positive approach to tax planning, and professional and personal credibility are vital as is a detailed knowledge of PAYE, corporation tax, capital gains tax and VAT. Reference: 700403/T.

The challenges of both positions will merit a high degree of recognition and reward. Benefits include profit sharing and sharesave schemes, 30 days' holiday, pension, and sports and social facilities.

For an application form, please call our 24-hour answerphone, quoting the appropriate reference, on 0707 49951. Closing date for receipt of applications 2 April 1991.

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Hampshire Salary c40k plus car and benefits

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Applicants should be graduates with a professional qualification, have a minimum of ten years Life Assurance/Pensions experience, and be able to show exceptional modern management flair and understanding. It will suit an intellectually curious, results oriented individual who has the personality and communication skills to integrate quickly into a new environment, securing co-operation and support from all levels internally and externally.

The expectations and demands are high but matched equally by an exceptional salary, car and benefits package.

Curriculum vitae should be forwarded to our advising consultant Nicola Newman MIPM, Ansty Executive Recruitment Service, 1 and 2 The Row, Ansty, Nr. Coventry CV7 9JA. or call her on 0203 614788 for an informal discussion.

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REF: F3

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- * The ability to advise Members clearly and accurately on complex financial issues.
- * Experience of staff management.
- * Commitment to equality of opportunity.
- * A positive attitude towards change and problem solving.

Please telephone 071-926 3882 for an application form and information pack containing full details of salary, post requirements and benefits.

Alternatively, write to The Personnel Section, Directorate of Finance, London Borough of Lambeth, Olive Morris House, 18 Brixton Hill, London SW2 1RL.

Closing date: 15th March 1991.

Interviews will be held within two weeks of the closing date.

As part of the Council's equal opportunity employment policy applications are invited from people regardless of race, creed, nationality, disability, age, sex, responsibility for children or dependants and from lesbians and gay men. Applications are particularly welcome from people with disabilities who are under-represented among the Council's staff.

LAMBETH FINANCE SERVICES

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Bath City Council seeks a City Treasurer to succeed Ian Blair, who has been appointed City Treasurer at Nottingham. .

Reporting to the Chief Executive, the Treasurer is a key member of the management team and is expected to play a strong corporate role. The Council has a total workforce of 950 and a gross revenue budget of £54.5m.

Bath is a City with a record of successful achievement. A crucial element in its success has been effective financial management and the Treasurer must be capable of continuing, and building on, that success by formulating and implementing the financial strategies of the Council.

Candidates must contribute to, and assist in, the corporate management of the Council as a whole; demonstrate clearly the ability to understand local government finance; develop effective financial strategies; manage an effective financial framework and service to enable the Council successfully to attain its strategies.

The salary is c£40,000, plus the usual benefits, including a car and relocation package. For further information, please contact:

Bath
City Council

John Smith
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This post will suit a results-orientated candidate with a strong academic background, an appropriate professional qualification and significant academic, professional or commercial experience.

For further details and an application form, please write to:

The Personnel Department, City of London Polytechnic,
31 Jewry Street, London EC3N 2EY, quoting reference number. 91/29.

Completed application forms should be returned by 26th March 1991

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Candidates must be graduates with a good track record in business planning. They must be able to demonstrate the ability, not only to formulate strategy, but the skills to translate it into practical action plans, and to monitor these closely.

It is essential that applicants have a strong I.T. background, and preferably, experience in the financial services sector. They must be good man managers and will be expected to play an important and highly active role in the senior management team.

If you feel able to meet this exciting challenge, please send a career resume quoting reference 3196 to Bruce McKay, Touche Ross Executive Selection, 5th Floor, 52/54 High Holborn, London WC1V 6RL, telephone number 071-353 7361.

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All application will be treated in strict confidence.

For further information contact Jeff Davis or Christopher Kidd on 071-353-4212 (days) or 081-979-8140 or 081-691-1648 (eves and weekends) or write to them at the address below.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

** Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return) ● Ex dividend. c Cum dividend. k Cum stock split. s Ex stock split. m Cum all (any two or more of above). a Ex all (any two or more of above). Dealing or valuation days: (1) Monday. (2) Tuesday. (3) Wednesday. (4) Thursday. (5) Friday.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 93.3 (day's range 93.3).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Mar 13	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New Yrk	1.8540-1.8600	1.8550-1.8560	0.97-0.95pr	2.65-2.63pr
Montrl	2.1377-2.1519	2.1379-2.1418	0.53-0.45pr	0.99-0.87pr
Amstrdm	3.2905-3.3028	3.2991-3.3028	1-¾pr	2½-2¼pr
Brussels	60.05-60.43	60.21-60.43	19-14pr	50-41pr
Copnhgn	11.2037-11.2622	11.2376-11.2622	2⅛-1⅞pr	6⅜-5⅞pr
Dublin	1.0964-1.0974	1.0964-1.0974	21-16pr	61-52pr
Frankft	2.9196-2.9293	2.9259-2.9293	⅞-¾pr	2⅜-2⅛pr
Lisbon	252.55-254.36	253.30-254.36	29-43ds	98-156ds
Madrid	181.35-182.44	181.51-182.17	18-31ds	61-79ds
Milan	2179.01-2185.62	2184.73-2189.62	1pr-1ds	2pr-2ds
Oslo	11.4051-11.4565	11.4194-11.4441	2⅛-1⅞pr	4⅛-3⅞pr
Paris	9.9468-9.9871	9.9725-9.9871	2⅝-2⅜pr	6⅞-6⅝pr
Stckhlm	10.7579-10.8019	10.7778-10.8019	⅜-⅛pr	1-½pr
Tokyo	252.84-253.93	252.84-253.18	⅞-¾pr	2⅜-2⅛pr
Vienna	20.55-20.61	20.58-20.61	6⅝-5⅜pr	17-14⅞pr
Zurich	2.5360-2.5436	2.5404-2.5436	1-¾pr	2½-2⅛pr

Source: Extel *Premium = pr. Discount = ds.*

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 13 Finance Hse 14
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 13 Low 12½ Week fixed: 13
Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth 12 ; 3 mth 11⅞ . Sell: 2 mth 11¾ ; 3 mth: 11¾ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	12¹⁷⁄₃₂-¹⁵⁄₃₂	12⁹⁄₃₂-11³¹⁄₃₂	11¹³⁄₁₆-11¾	11⁹⁄₁₆-11¾	
Trade Bills (Dis):	13⁵⁄₃₂	12²³⁄₃₂	12⁷⁄₁₆	11¹³⁄₁₆	
Interbank:	12⅞-12¹¹⁄₁₆	12⅝-12⁷⁄₁₆	12⅜-12⁵⁄₁₆	11³¹⁄₃₂-11⅞	11¹¹⁄₁₆-⁹⁄₁₆
(Overnight: open 13 , close 9 .					
Local Authority Deps:	12⅞	n/a	12⅜	11⅞	11⅞
Sterling CDs:	12⅞-12¾	12⅝-12½	12⅜-12¼	11²⁹⁄₃₂-11⅞	11¹⁷⁄₃₂-⁷⁄₁₆
Dollar CDs:	6.45-6.40	6.45-6.40	6.45-6.40	6.50-6.45	6.92-6.87
Building Society CDs:	12¹¹⁄₁₆-12⁹⁄₁₆	12⁷⁄₁₆-12¹³⁄₃₂	12⁵⁄₁₆-12¼	11⅞-11⅞	11⅞-11⅜

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	6⅛-5⅞	6⁷⁄₁₆-6⅛	6½-6⁵⁄₁₆	6⅝-6⁷⁄₁₆	6⅛-5⅞
Deutschemark:	8⅞-8¾	8¹⁵⁄₁₆-¹³⁄₁₆	9-8⅞	9-8⅞	8⅛-7⅞
French Franc:	9⅛-9⅛	9⅝-9⅛	9⅝-9⅜	9⁷⁄₁₆-9⁵⁄₁₆	9⅜-8⅞
Swiss Franc:	8⅜-8⅛	8⁹⁄₁₆-8⁵⁄₁₆	8⅛-8⅝	8-7⅞	8-7
Yen:	8⅛-8	8³⁄₁₆-8⁷⁄₁₆	8³⁄₁₆-8⁷⁄₁₆	7¹³⁄₁₆-¹¹⁄₁₆	7⅛-6⅞

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS *(Baird & Co)*

Bullion: Open $365.00-365.50 Close: $366.25-366.75 High: $366.30-366.80
Low: $364.85-365.35 Krugerrand: $365.75-368.75 (£197.00-198.00)
Sovereigns: Old $91.00-92.00 (£48.50-49.50) New $87.00-88.00 (£46.50-47.50)
Platinum: $410.00 (£220.80) Silver: $4.15 (£2.235) Palladium: $86.50 (£46.00)

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	17348.7-17432.3
Australia dollar	2.4200-2.4243
Bahrain dinar	n/a
Brazil cruzeiro *	422.412-422.669
Cyprus pound	0.8285-0.8365
Finland markka	6.9975-7.0675
Greece drachma	313.65-316.85
Hong Kong dollar	14.4400-14.4451
India rupee	35.36-35.76
Kuwait dinar KD	n/a
Malaysia ringgit	5.0635-5.0682
Mexico peso	5510-5610
New Zealand dollar	3.1000-3.1011
Saudi Arabia riyal	n/a
Singapore dollar	3.2399-3.2454
S Africa rand (fin)	5.8619-6.0598
S Africa rand (com)	4.8500-4.8587
U A E dirham	n/a

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank.*

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.6855-1.6870
Singapore	1.7480-1.7500
Malaysia	2.7319-2.7329
Australia	1.3068-1.3080
Canada	1.1534-1.1539
Sweden	5.8150-5.8200
Norway	6.1700-6.1750
Denmark	6.0600-6.0650
W Germany	1.5770-1.5780
Switzerland	1.3693-1.3700
Netherlands	1.7745-1.7755
France	5.3750-5.3800
Japan	136.60-136.70
Italy	1177.2-1178.2
Belgium (Com)	32.50-32.54
Hong Kong	7.7910-7.7920
Portugal	137.00-137.20
Spain	98.10-98.20
Austria	11.09-11.11

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Dec 31, 1990 Agreed rates Jan 26, 1991 to Feb 25, 1991 Scheme I: 14.54%. Schemes II & III: 15.09%. Reference rate Dec 1, 1990 to Dec 31, 1990 Scheme IV & V: 13.843%.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 31528	Mar 91	2463.0	2467.0	2445.0	2463.0	4953
	Jun 91	2505.0	2505.0	2488.0	2494.0	1095
	Sep 91				2532.0	9
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 153443	Mar 91	87.74	87.78	87.70	87.73	6832
	Jun 91	88.85	88.88	88.80	88.84	21967
	Sep 91	89.40	89.40	89.34	89.36	2244
Three Month Eurodollar Previous open interest: 46852	Mar 91	93.48	93.50	93.48	93.50	1710
	Jun 91	93.38	93.41	93.36	93.41	3495
Three Month Euro DM Previous open interest: 101657	Mar 91	90.97	90.97	90.94	90.94	2165
	Jun 91	91.06	91.08	91.04	91.04	10740
US Treasury Bond Previous open interest: 6978	Mar 91	95-23	95-25	95-23	95-24	95
	Jun 91	94-31	95-03	94-28	95-00	1959
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 33019	Mar 91	90-24	90-24	90-22	90-16	6
	Jun 91	91-16	91-16	90-21	90-29	27024
Japanese Govt Bond Previous open interest: 352	Jun 91	95.87	95.93	95.87	95.93	48
German Govt Bond Previous open interest: 68815	Jun 91	85.56	85.70	85.45	85.46	36977
	Sep 91	85.80	85.86	85.79	85.71	278
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 3044	Mar 91	90.60	90.60	90.60	90.62	19
	Jun 91	90.83	90.84	90.81	90.81	67

COMMODITIES

LONDON FOX

COCOA		COFFEE		SUGAR (FOB) C Czarnikow	
Mar	649-647	Mar	531-530	May	199.4-98.8
May	669-668	May	552-551	Aug	198.4-97.2
Jul	697-696	Jul	569-567	Oct	196.0-93.0
Sep	719-718	Sep	584-583	Dec	194.0-87.2
Dec	746-745	Nov	601-600	Mar	187.0-85.2
Mar	769-767	Jan	617-614	May	188.0-86.2
May	789-787	Mar	635-631		
Vol: 5124		Vol: 2163		Vol: 1439	

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT Close (£/t)		BARLEY Close (£/t)		HI-PRO SOYA Close (£/t)	
Mar	128.70	Mar	117.80	Apr	118.5-17.5
May	131.80	May	120.85	Jun	115.5-14.5
Jun	133.95	Sep	107.00	Aug	117.5-16.6
Sep	110.25	Nov	110.60	Oct	121.5-21.0
Nov	113.10	Jan	113.60	Dec	125.0-24.0
Vol:	330	Vol:	85	Vol:	173

LONDON POTATO FUTURES

Volume: 205

	Open	Close
Apr (£/tonne)	127.8	125.0
May	160.0	157.5

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 13

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	87.35	178.38	107.16
(+/-)	+0.85	+23.40	-0.68
Eng/Wales:	87.38	176.87	106.81
(+/-)	+0.85	+21.62	-0.55
(%)	-5.3	-6.3	-1.9
Scotland:	n/a	173.23	109.30
(+/-)	n/a	+26.90	-0.16
(%)	n/a	-56.7	-25.8

* Estimated dead carcase weight

LONDON MEAT FUTURES

Live Pig (/kg)

Mar	Open:	unq
	Close:	114.0
Apr	Open:	unq
	Close:	112.0
May	Open:	unq
	Close:	111.5

Volume: 94

LONDON OIL REPORTS (ICIS-LOR) - London 5.00pm:

Bullish Stats and an Opec agreement brought a surprising degree of confidence back into the oil market.

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	20.10	+1.95
Brent 15 day (Apr)	20.20	+1.95
Brent 15 day (May)	19.90	+1.80
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	20.45	+1.80
W Texas Intermediate (May)	20.00	+1.75

PRODUCTS (Buy/sell $/MT) Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Gas 1.5	245 (+5)	249 (+5)
Gasoil EEC	172 (+10)	175 (+11)
Non EEC 2H Mar	176 (+11)	178 (+11)
Non EEC 1H Apr	172 (+11)	174 (+10)
3.5 Fuel Oil	71 (+2)	72 (+1)
Naphtha	218 (+18)	223 (+18)

IPE FUTURES

GAS OIL

Apr	168.25-68.00	Aug	162.00-61.50
May	162.00-61.50	Sep	165.00-63.50
Jun	161.00-60.50	Oct	165.50-65.00
Jul	161.00 Bid		Vol: 6369

BRENT

Apr	20.20-20.30	Jun	19.15-19.25
May	18.95-19.00		Vol: n/a

BIFFEX

GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo ($10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 91	1735	1730	1735
Apr 91	1580	1564	1565
Jul 91	1160	1160	1159
Oct 91	—	—	1274

Vol: 189 lots Open interest: 3694
Dry cargo index 1780 +9

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)

	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A (£/tonne)	1300.0-1301.0	1306.0-1307.0	Vol: 414100
Lead (£/tonne)	324.00-325.00	335.00-335.50	82625
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1194.0-1195.0	1188.0-1189.0	108525
Tin ($/tonne)	5550-5655	5650-5651	3455
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1525.0-1526.0	1558.0-1559.0	357650
Nickel ($/tonne):	8600.0-8605.0	8610.0-8620.0	12294

FOX MGMI INDEX (5pm prices)

	Bid	Offer
Mar	155.10	155.80
Apr	155.60	156.30
May	155.70	156.40

Vol: 370

ourt of Appeal — Law Report March 14 1991 — Court of Appeal

Spouse's role in drugs conspiracy

gina v Chrastny

fore Lord Justice Glidewell, r Justice Hollings and Mr stice Rougier

udgment March 4]

here a defendant entered a iminal conspiracy with her ouse, an offence had been mmitted only if she knew of her conspirators.

The Court of Appeal, Crimal Division, so held in dismiss g the appeal of Mrs Charlotte rbara Chrastny against her nviction at the Central Crimal Court (Judge Machin) of nspiring to supply a conlled drug contrary to section) of the Criminal Law Act 77.

Section 2 of the Criminal Law t 1977 provides: "(2) A rson shall not . . . be guilty of nspiracy to commit any of ice or offences if the only her person or persons with om he agrees are (both tially and at all times during e conspiracy of the agreement) rsons of any one or more of e following descriptions that is say — (a) his spouse . . .".

Mr Timothy Cassell, QC and r Jonathan Caplan for the pellant; Mr Michael ompton for the prosecution.

ORD JUSTICE GLIDE ELL, giving the judgment of e court, said that although the fendant committed the nspiracy only with her spouse, e was not guilty of a criminal nspiracy under section 2(2)(a) the 1977 Act with all the hers involved unless she knew at they conspired with her sband.

It was enough that she had nspired with her husband owing that others were involved or that others had conired, for to hold otherwise ould have allowed the spouse avoid criminal liability under e section.

Only where the defendant did t know the existence of other nspirators would the section ve afforded her protection.

Solicitors: Simons Muirhead Burton; Solicitor, Customs d Excise.

Confiscating proceeds of drugs crime

egina v Chrastny (No 2)

efore Lord Justice Glidewell, ir Justice Hollings and Mr istice Alliott

udgment March 8]

Where only one of the defen ants to a conspiracy of drug afficking was convicted then e court could make a confiscaon order in respect of the total alue assessed to be the proeds of drug trafficking so long it was satisfied that the fendant had sufficient control r possession of the property.

In section 5(3) of the Drug afficking Offences Act 1986 the definition of "realisable property" embraced legitimately acquired property which could therefore be taken into account when determining under section 4 the amount to be recovered.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in dismissing the appeal of Mrs Charlotte Barbara Chrastny against a confiscation order made by Judge Machin at the Central Criminal Court under section 1 of the 1986 Act.

Mr Timothy Cassell, QC and Mr Jonathan Caplan for the appellant; Mr Michael Brompton for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL, giving the judgment of the court, said that where the proceeds of drug trafficking were held in joint possession then where both defendants were before the court it would clearly have been unfair to have made a confiscation order for the total value, as assessed to be the proceeds, against each of the defendants.

However, where only one of the defendants was before the court and convicted of drug trafficking then, as long as she was found to have sufficient control or possession of the property, the court did not see why a confiscation order for the total value of the proceeds could not be made.

The instant case was distinguished from *R v Porter* ([1990] 1 WLR 1260) and *Viner v Long* (*The Times* May 25, 1990) for in those cases both defendants had been convicted and were before the court when it came to making the confiscation order.

If Mr Chrastny, who had absconded, was caught and convicted and the prosecution sought a confiscation order against the property now under consideration then if the present order had been satisfied by Mrs Chrastny no further order as sought by the prosecution could be made.

If the value of the realisable property acquired from the proceeds of drug trafficking was less than that of the defendant's drug trafficking proceeds, then she would have to satisfy the confiscation order by resorting to her lawfully acquired property.

Solicitors: Simons Muirhead & Burton; Solicitor, Customs and Excise.

Extra-marital liaisons rule was applied equally to both sexes by school employer

Berrisford v Woodard Schools (Midland Division) Ltd

Before Mr Justice Knox, Mr A. C. Blyghton and Mrs M. E. Sunderland

[Judgment March 6]

An unmarried school matron who was dismissed when she became pregnant and did not intend to get married had not been unlawfully discriminated against on the ground of sex, contrary to section 1(1)(a) and 6(2)(b) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held (Mr A. C. Blyghton dissenting) when dismissing an appeal by the applicant, Miss Elizabeth Berrisford, from a decision of a Birmingham industrial tribunal last May that her employers, Woodard Schools (Midland Division) Ltd, were not guilty of discrimination.

Section 1 of the 1975 Act provides: "(1) A person discriminates against a woman . . . if (a) on the ground of her sex he treats her less favourably than he treats or would treat a man. . .".

Section 6 provides: "(2) It is unlawful for a person in the case of a woman employed by him at an establishment in Great Britain to discriminate against her . . . (b) by dismissing her. . ."

Mr David Brock for the applicant; Mr Matthew Jackson for the school.

MR JUSTICE KNOX said that the school, St Mary and St Abbots Bromley in Staffordshire, was operated by the respondents and was a boarding school for girls aged between 7 and 18. The applicant was dismissed when she told the headmaster that she had no immediate plans to marry.

The industrial tribunal accepted the headmaster's evidence that it was not tolerable to retain her unmarried while she became increasingly visibly pregnant.

Evidence was further given that in the past male teachers who had formed liaisons were given the option of marrying, giving up the relationship or leaving the school. The industrial tribunal found that the school was not guilty of direct discrimination since a man known to have been acting in a similar way would also have been dismissed.

The appeal was put on the ground that whereas in the comparable male situation upon which the industrial tribunal relied, the school gave the masters three options, to marry, to leave or to give up the relationship, the applicant was only given two: to marry her boyfriend or leave the school.

The majority of the appeal tribunal were unpersuaded that it was correct to say that there was that difference between the comparable male situation and that of the applicant. There was material on which the industrial tribunal could properly find that continuing evidence of extra-marital sexual activity would be treated as ground for dismissal just as much in a man as in a woman.

It followed that the industrial tribunal was not bound to take so narrow a view of the matter as to compare the position of the applicant with that of a man who had engaged in extra-marital sex but was not living or otherwise associating with his partner.

Once it was appreciated that it was the example given to the pupils that constituted the objectionable conduct, it became clear that for there to be a comparable male situation there had to be a visible sign that conveyed that example for the comparison to be valid.

That was the answer to the argument that because a man could not become pregnant there must necessarily be discrimination in any dismissal of a pregnant woman where the pregnancy had any connection with the dismissal.

The appeal would be dismissed and leave to appeal granted.

Solicitors: Mr D. H. Walton, Burton-on-Trent; Sprott Stokes & Turnbull, Shrewsbury.

Mode of trial choice relevant to costs

Regina v Clelland

The defendant's choice of mode of trial was a relevant factor when determining orders for costs.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Russell, Mr Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Turner) so held on February 25 in dismissing an appeal by Mr Glen George Clelland against a costs order made by Mr Assistant Recorder Kenneth Brown at Inner London Crown Court.

MR JUSTICE KENNEDY said that although costs should not be awarded in a manner which appeared to punish a defendant for exercising his right to trial on indictment, it was a nevertheless a material factor for the court to take into account when considering questions of costs.

Legal aid disparity in appeals

Norwich and Peterborough Building Society v Steed

Before Lord Donaldson of Lymington, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Leggatt

[Judgment February 27]

On an application for an extension of time for appealing, the merits of the proposed appeal were relevant to the exercise of the court's discretion, even where there might be good reason for the delay.

The present disparity of treatment between assisted and non-assisted parties in requiring compliance with the rules for setting down an appeal resulting from delays in the grant of legal aid could be remedied by the introduction of changes to the legal aid regulations and the the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The Court of Appeal so stated in granting an application by the defendant, Michael Steed, for leave to extend the time for appealing from an order of Mr Justice Knox given on December 15, 1989 in an action for possession brought by the Norwich and Peterborough Building Society.

Mr Stephen Acton for Mr Steed; Mr Clive H. Jones for the building society.

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN said that on such an application the matters which the court took into account were the length of the delay, the reasons for it, the chances of the proposed appeal succeeding and the prejudice to the prospective respondent.

The present relevant delay was about six and a half months which was substantial. The reason was the delay in the grant of legal aid.

The defendant's solicitors had made a sustained effort in attempting to obtain its grant. There was a reasonable explanation for the delay.

Having considered the merits of the appeal, and the possible prejudice to the building society, his Lordship concluded that an extension of time should be given.

Lord Justice Leggatt agreed.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, concurring, said that it was wrong to assert that on such an application, if there was good reason for the delay, it was not necessary to enquire into the merits of the prospective appeal.

Once the time for appealing had elapsed, the respondent who was successful in the court below was entitled to regard the judgment in his favour as final. If he were to be deprived of that, it was only on the basis of a discretionary balancing exercise, however blameless the delay might be on the part of the would-be appellant.

For the classic statement of the elements of that equation see *C. M. Van Stillevoldt BV v E. L. Carriers Inc* ([1983] 1 WLR 207) and was as stated by Lord Justice McCowan.

Nestle v National Westminster Bank (*The Times* March 23, 1990) was a very special case. If it was authority for anything, it was so for the proposition that the decision whether to extend time was entirely discretionary.

Lord Justice Nicholls had there said in a crucial sentence that had led to the present misunderstanding that to refuse to permit an appeal on that ground required the court to be satisfied that an appeal is doomed to failure.

However the important point there was that the court found that it could not evaluate the chances of success without in effect hearing a lengthy mini-appeal.

In those circumstances it was impossible to be sure the merits were not sufficient to counterbalance the excusable delay, and in that situation justice required that an extension be granted.

His Lordship did not believe that Lord Justice Nicholls was saying more than that, because to do so would be to depart in a single sentence from the settled practice of the court.

Turning to the problems caused by delay in grant of legal aid, his Lordship said that a situation had now been reached in the Court of Appeal in which there was one law for the assisted would-be appellant and one law for the non-assisted. It was a case of one law for the poor and another for the not quite poor enough.

A potentially assisted appellant had months in which to launch his appeal while his application for legal aid was being considered. The unassisted appellant had four weeks.

It was not only the appellant who was affected. Such delays were a great hardship to the prospective respondents, amounting to very real injustice, who would not know that the appeal was on foot.

However, the Court of Appeal's hands were tied since there would be even greater injustice if an appeal were dismissed just because legal aid could not be obtained within four weeks.

To remedy the situation his Lordship proposed that the legal aid regulations be varied so that legal aid at the trial should be extended automatically to setting and serving a notice of appeal and setting it down in a special list to be kept for that purpose, provided that counsel who appeared at trial certified that in his view an appeal was arguable.

The Rules of the Supreme Court should be altered to accommodate service of a provisional notice of appeal on the respondent within the four-week period. If it were so served and set down then nothing further would be required until the legal aid application had been determined.

If granted, the provisional notice would cease to be provisional and the appeal would go on in the ordinary way. If refused, the provisional notice would cease to have effect. In that latter situation, if the would-be appellant proposed to conduct an appeal in person or otherwise to fund it, he would have to apply for an extension of time.

The proposals his Lordship suggested would not be difficult to implement, and would remove a major defect in the administration of justice.

Solicitors: Chambers Rutland & Crauford, Finchley; Warrens Boyes & Archer, Huntingdon.

Justices denied defendant's right to speak from witness box

Regina v Farnham Justices, Ex parte Gibson

Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Rose

[Judgment March 7]

Justices had no power to compel all defendants to give their evidence from the dock rather than the witness box, as defendants had a right, only to be overridden in exceptional circumstances, to give evidence from the witness box.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in granting an application by Andrew Gibson for an order of *certiorari* to quash his conviction by Farnham Justices for driving with excess alcohol contrary to section 6(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1972 as substituted in Schedule 8 to the Transport Act 1981.

Mr Philip Kolvin for the applicant; the justices did not appear and were not represented.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that the applicant complained of a serious injustice arising from the fact that he had not not been allowed to go into the witness box to give evidence.

No complaint was made about the fact that he had not been allowed to sit alongside his solicitor and had to go in the dock, but whether that had been necessary having regard to the type of offence involved was questionable.

The justices had adopted the policy of putting everybody in the dock and causing defendants to give evidence from there. The justices' explanation of the policy had been utterly unconvincing. There was nothing about Farnham and its problems which was exceptional, yet his Lordship had never heard of such a policy before and hoped he never would again.

Section 1 of the Criminal Evidence Act 1898 gave defendants the right to give evidence from the witness box unless otherwise ordered. That meant justices could deny someone that right only in exceptional circumstances. That was as far as the justices' discretion went and no further. They were not allowed to direct from where evidence should be given.

There was no exception to the right that enabled justices to order every defendant in court to give evidence elsewhere. The exception only arose if there was some reason in relation to the individual defendant for its application.

The justices had recently adopted a new policy which was to ask each defendant whether he would prefer to give his evidence from the witness box. That too was a negation of the defendant's right to give evidence from the witness box and had to change forthwith.

A defendant's place was in the witness box and nowhere else unless there were strikingly unusual reasons to do otherwise.

In the instant case the applicant had a valid complaint. The all-important principle that justice had to be seen to be done had to hold sway and the conviction was quashed.

Solicitors: Heald Nickinson, Camberley.

Court's power to consider appeal merits

Mallory v Butler and Another

The decision in *Nestle v Westminster Bank Ltd* (*The Times* March 23, 1990) did not establish a departure from the settled practice of the court that on an application for an extension of time for appealing, the court in its discretion considered the merits of the proposed appeal.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Donaldson of Lymington, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Leggatt) so held on March 6 dismissing an application by the first defendant, Peter Butler, for an extension of time for appealing from Mr Justice Sheen who had held that he, and not the second defendant, Brian Bull, was liable for the personal injuries sustained by the plaintiff, Helen Mallory, in an accident on the River Thames.

Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Leggatt expressed their agreement with the judgment given by the Master of the Rolls in *Norwich and Peterborough Building Society v Steed* (*The Times* March 14, 1991).

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BOXING

The old nightmare rivalries return to stalk dream city

From SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, LAS VEGAS

THE city of dreams looked as unreal as ever to boxing men on this visit, nine months after Mike Tyson's first comeback contest, following his defeat by James Buster Douglas.

As you come in to the city and see the Excalibur, the 4,032-roomed fairy-castle hotel, its portcullises, crenellations and all, against the Nevada desert, you feel time has not moved even if so much water has flowed under the drawbridge.

Tyson has not made much progress along the road to his title despite this being his third contest, against Donovan Ruddock at the Mirage Hotel on Monday, and all the old rivalries among the promoters have started again. There is more in-fighting outside the ring than there will be inside it.

Don King, Tyson's adviser, who was reunited with his fellow promoter, Bob Arum, George Foreman's adviser, after ten years of bitterness, has fallen out again with "the prince of evilality and master of trickeration", as King humorously calls him.

"We've had a good experience," King had said of that new partnership last June. "When you leave a good taste in someone's mouth, it's comeback source, in the vernacular. You want to go back and have a repeat tray." Now, together with José Suleiman, the president of the World Boxing Council, King is trying to stop Evander Holyfield from defending against Foreman.

King even accused Arum of trying to spirit away Julio César Chávez, of Mexico, the world light-welterweight champion, with whom King has a contract.

Steve Wynn, the owner of the Mirage, who was the common enemy of the two promoters, is back in favour with King. King had earlier said: "Wynn is a guy who wears the persona of legalities and sophistication when he is really a renegade."

To heighten the unreality further, King has done a multi-million dollar deal with Showtime, who were Holyfield's friends, and Holyfield's backers, Dan and Lou Duva, have completed a multi-million dollar deal with Time Warner, who used to be King's friends.

Tyson himself is faced with having to wait six months to a year after he gets past Ruddock to meet the winner of the Holyfield-Foreman bout, which takes place on April 19. King was trying up to the last minute to make Tyson's contest with Ruddock an interim title bout. Suleiman had agreed to this but, after representations by the Duvas, a New Jersey judge, Amos C. Saunders, told Suleiman: "You are under restraint by, this court and you cannot call the title by any other name."

The bout was promptly called "the world heavyweight elimination bout". If, however, an arbitration court rules in the WBC's favour in May, Holyfield could be stripped by Suleiman and Tyson declared WBC champion. Such a move would strengthen King's hand when negotiating to unify the title.

Regardless of how the boxers fair as a result of this wrangle, one thing is certain, all promoters who are daggers drawn at the moment will be hugging each other at the end of the day. You cannot help but get a feeling that one gigantic hype is in the making and will come to fruition later in the year.

Yesterday, at the Doolittle Gym, Ruddock was doing his utmost to help the process along. "I can't wait to beat Tyson because he's an ignorant brat," Ruddock said. "He tried to humiliate me and eyeball me. He even threw a kiss. That's for girls. Fighters throw punches."

SQUASH RACKETS

Dittmar prevails in year of strife

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

CHRIS Dittmar has been a key factor in Carlisle Cannons this week, securing their third Pimm's Premier League title a fortnight ahead of the last fixture, but it has been a harrowing year for him.

"I seem to have been taking stick in one way or another since 1989," the red-headed Australian said. Dittmar, in addition to fighting his corner among the top five on the world circuit, is the uncompromising president of the International Squash Players Association.

His year began with a record £3,000 fine, from the organisation he heads, for double-booking a Middle East exhibition with the Finnish Open and choosing to duck the Ispa event in favour of the Arab money.

In the summer he made a £20,000 transfer from Cannons and left his previous league employer, Mike Corby, of Lambs Club, spitting epithets about broken friendships.

All this season Dittmar has been locked in battle with Jansher Khan, the world champion from Pakistan, whom he has accused of unprofessional behaviour on and off the court.

When he defeated Jansher in their first league clash at Cannons, Dittmar was convinced the Pakistani threw the match rather than grant him a real victory. When they met again this week, after Dittmar's Cannons colleagues had locked up the league title with victories against Stars and Stripes, Jansher was overwhelmingly superior.

"You have to respect that level of play," Dittmar said. "But I don't like the guy."

Similar statements combined with a coldly ferocious attitude towards Jansher on court have led to accusations of racism. Dittmar denies this.

"I care about my own playing career and the professional image of my sport. Jansher Khan happens to cause me problems on both counts," he said.

PIMM'S PREMIER LEAGUE: Stars and Stripes 1, Carlisle Cannons 3; Lynic Surbiton 1, Leekes Wizards 3; L and P Lambs 4, North Walsham 0; Mosaic Priory 2, Team Allsports 2.

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Cannons	14	12	0	2	72
Leekes	14	9	2	3	58
Lambs	14	9	2	3	57
Allsports	15	6	4	5	50
Stars & Stps	14	3	6	5	36
Priory	14	2	5	7	36
N Walsham	14	4	7	3	32
Surbiton	15	1	10	4	24
Abbeydale	14	0	10	4	19

SRA WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE
Final Table

	P	W	L	Pts
Caversham	8	7	1	38
Reebok Nottingham	8	6	2	32
Brooks Colets	8	5	3	32
IMS Courtlands	8	1	7	11
Lee-on-Solent	8	1	7	6

Katabatic crowned two-mile champion at Cheltenham

IAN STEWART

Katabatic, left, mastering Young Snugfit on his way to victory in the Queen Mother Champion Chase yesterday

SKIING

A late starter is catching up fast

From DAVID CHAPPELL IN TIGNES, FRANCE

CLAIRE de Pourtales is finding out here this week that success breeds success. Coming into the British Land British National Championships, she had yet to win a title at this level; yesterday, victory in the women's downhill brought her a second success in four days.

With her strongest discipline, the slalom, to come tomorrow, it is no surprise to find de Pourtales talking enthusiastically about her season. For a late starter to skiing, she is catching up fast at the age of 21.

"The season has been going very well," she said after beating Emma Carrick-Anderson by 1¼ seconds. "I had good results to Christmas and then it's just been getting better all the time. Winning the super-giant slalom on Sunday took a bit of pressure off."

"It doesn't seem so tough for me this year," she said. "I've made a step forward and suddenly it all seems quite reachable." But she will have noted the performance of Carrick-Anderson, the only other competitor to complete the course in under 1½ minutes. The Scottish girl, aged 15, is showing the benefits of schooling in Austria and made light of being the first skier down in an encouraging run.

In the absence of the Bell brothers, who are competing for World Cup points in the United States, Ronald Duncan, aged 28, emulated the double success of de Pourtales in the men's event.

A downhill specialist ranked 64th in the world, Duncan's victory yesterday came as no surprise as he beat the American-based Bill Gaylord and Dan Walker in a a field of 58.

RESULTS: Men's downhill: 1, R Duncan, 1min 22.41sec; 2, W Gaylord, 1:24.13; 3, D Walker, 1:25.13; 4, D Mansfield, 1:25.58; 5, M Erskine, 1:25.70. Women's downhill: 1, C de Pourtales, 1:27.42; 2, E Carrick-Anderson, 1:28.88; 3, H Head, 1:30.30; 4, L Beck, 1:30.83; 5, L Ness, 1:31.89.

Pipe's big success taxing for owner

By RICHARD EVANS

WINNING a race at the Cheltenham festival is every National Hunt owner's dream. Yesterday, the reality proved too much for Hilda Clarke.

After leading Rolling Ball in to the hallowed winner's enclosure following victory in the Sun Alliance Chase, *the emotion* and excitement took its toll and she fainted.

Fortunately, she was not hurt and within five minutes was on her feet, to the delight and cheers of thousands of concerned spectators, and able to receive the silver bowl presented to the winning owner.

"The owner just fainted at the shock of me having a winner," joked Martin Pipe, whose horses are running so well.

A composed Mrs Clarke said later:"I am so embarrassed, I really am. My knees started to knock when I led the horse in to the winner's enclosure and I can't remember much more."

Rolling Ball made all and, apart from one mistake at the second last on the first circuit, jumped impeccably and ran his opponents into the ground.

However, Peter Scudamore needed to use all his strength in the last 100 yards as Rolling Ball began to tire and the champion jockey must have feared for a moment he was doomed to the runner-up spot for the fourth time in the meeting.

But Rolling Ball lasted home and Scudamore was more than relieved. "It is disappointing to be second. I enjoy the pressure of having to win, not just going round. Riding for the top stables, I am under pressure to win, and without winning it is nothing. We have got to win."

Tony Martin should not even be thinking of riding let alone winning. An horrific fall at Limerick 12 months ago left the Co Meath jockey with head injuries which looked certain to end his riding career.

A doctor told him not to ride again but Martin battled back. The Irish Turf Club medical officials allowed him to resume in the saddle and yesterday his courageous fightback was rewarded with victory in the National Hunt Chase, the gruelling marathon over four miles.

Smooth Escort is a tough ride and needed every ounce of assistance offered by Martin to end a run of five second places. Fortune was also on their side as Gold Cap fell three fences from home when travelling ominously well in second place and at the second-last Windy Ways made a serious mistake which blunted his challenge.

Foyle Fisherman has been a victim of severe handicapping for three years, having beaten Barnbrook Again at Chepstow in 1988. Having been dropped at last in the weights, he took full advantage to win the Mildmay of Flete Challenge Cup.

No one was more surprised by the 33-1 shock winner than his trainer, Josh Gifford, who had urged John Hutchinson, the horse's owner, not to back him. "Fortunately, my owners don't take any notice of me now. If I tell them not to back a horse they have even more on it."

Slight fall in attendance

DESPITE the recession, the crowds were out in force again yesterday. The afternoon's attendance of 35,904 was only 1,517 down on the 1990 figure of 37,421. As on Tuesday, this represented a decrease of just over four per cent.

However, shirt sleeves were the order of the day as glorious spring sunshine pushed temperatures close to an unseasonal 70° F.

O'Neill triumphs with Danny Connors gamble

By MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE legendary Jonjo O'Neill hurled his hat high in the air in triumph after saddling his first winner at the National Hunt festival on a blazing hot afternoon at Cheltenham yesterday.

"This is a magic place," said the Cork-born former champion jockey after Mark Dwyer had *ridden* Danny Connors to a four lengths win in the Coral Golden Hurdle Final, in the process landing a gamble for the well-known Irish bookmaker and punter J P McManus.

O'Neill's festival wins as a jockey have included Gold Cup victories on Alverton and Dawn Run, and Champion Hurdle wins on Sea Pigeon and Dawn Run.

"Training a festival winner has given me a bigger thrill than riding one. It's a team effort, there are so many people involved," he said.

Dwyer, who helped the punters land that extraordinary gamble on Forgive'N Forget in this race in 1983, rode a patient and well-judged race, biding his time before moving up to send Danny Connors clear on the hill.

"Mark rode a brilliant race" said O'Neill. "He's a funny horse. You don't know whether he is going to put his best foot forward or not. There was a moment two out today when I wasn't certain, but then he went through with it."

Corals, the sponsor, laid 16-1 about the eventual 9-1 winner. "He's a bit of a *thinker*, but Jonjo was confident that the horse was at his best," said McManus. "I lost on him at Newbury, but I had a bit on today and got it back with a little bit of interest."

Danny Connors's win certainly gave McManus handsome consolation for a disappointing performance by his eight-year-old Blitzkreig who finished fifth behind Katabatic in the day's big race, the Queen Mother Champion Chase.

Never have the ups and downs of steeplechasing been more dramatically illustrated than *by the 9-1 win of* Katabatic as the eight-year-old sprinted clear of Waterloo Boy, the even money favourite, to win by six lengths.

Simon O'Neill, the winning jockey who will be 35 this weekend, only came in for his first-ever winner at the festival on Monday. This was his *only* mount during the three days.

Andy Turnell, the successful trainer, despite having won the Grand National in 1987 with Maori Venture, has been feeling the effects of a recesssion so badly that he recently had to sell his car to help with the cash flow in his business.

"I have 19 horses at present" he said. "My accountant tells me I need 27 to break even."

The Wantage trainer has certainly excelled himself in his training of yesterday's winner. Having won the Grand Annual Handicap over the course and distance last March, the eight-year-old has now stamped himself as being the best two-miler in Britain and Ireland.

"There were rumours that Waterloo Boy had been stopped in his work," said the trainer. "But we thought the best we could do would be to finish second. I was pretty certain we could beat Blitzkreig and Young Snugfit because when we finished third to them at Ascot Kabatic dropped his hind legs in the water."

By far the most impressive sight of another marvellous afternoon's racing was that of Crystal Spirit in the opening Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle. Carrying the black and gold colours of Paul Mellon, the 83-year-old American owner *of such former Flat champions as* Mill Reef and Gift Of Gold, the heavily backed [illegible]-1 favourite recorded a brilliant display of jumping in the hands of Jimmy Frost to beat Minorettes Girl, the strongly fancied Irish challenger, by four lengths.

Frost, having added this win go his triumph on Tuesday, in the Champion Hurdle on Morley Street, surpassed himself in his confident judgment of pace throughout.

What a marvellous meeting has this been for the Balding brothers, Ian, the brother of Toby, Morley Street's trainer, is, of course, well known for his operations on the Flat. But Crystal Spirit, his first winner at the festival, was his first-ever runner at the meeting, although he won the National Hunt Chase as an amateur rider on Time in 1963.

"I don't know whether we will send him to Liverpool or not, even though Mr Mellon may be coming over. Long term we are thinking of him as a Cheltenham Gold Cup prospect."

Despite David Elsworth's gloomy foreboding, I am still taking the 12-year-old Desert Orchid to overcome his natural aversion to Prestbury Park and record his second Cheltenham Gold Cup win at the expense of Celtic Shot and Cool Ground.

Teaplanter to collect Foxhunters'

By BRIAN BEEL

LEAN Ar Aghaidh, a leading contender for the Christies Foxhunters' at Cheltenham today, is lame after slipping when being led out of his stables yesterday. Raymond Gittens, secretary to Stan Mellor, said: "It is a stifle injury, and he must be considered doubtful."

With Run And Skip also an absentee, the formidable challenge of the pseudo hunters from licensed yards has been reduced to Crammer and Sanballat. Neither may be good enough to beat the genuine hunter, Teaplanter.

To be ridden by his owner Richard Russell and saddled by Caroline Saunders, whose father, Dick, rode Grittar, the winner of this race ten years ago, Teaplanter has won seven of his eight races in the last two seasons, falling in the other on his debut over regulation fences, when in a commanding lead two fences out.

Crammer and Sanballat, both good winners this term, have obvious chances, but I believe Lean Ar Aghaidh's was the best. At Kempton, he gave the useful Wellington Brown, not without an outside chance here, 10lb and won comfortably by six lengths, which could be considered an even better performance than Teaplanter's when, off level weights, he beat Wellington Brown by ten lengths at Newbury.

Dun Gay Lass and Lockner Lad are interesting prospects on point-to-point form, and Old Nick has sound claims if he can put in a clear round.

In Lean Ar Aghaidh's likely absence, Teaplanter is taken to win, with Crammer and Old Nick filling the minor places.

SPORTS LETTERS

International referees at fault

From Mr David Reid

Sir, The rugby press has devoted much space this season to criticism of referees in international matches, much of it undeserved. As is obvious to anyone who actually referees a match, it is necessary to let many offences pass unchecked in order to have any kind of game at all. Normally, of course, these would be technical offences, which are unlikely to affect the play significantly.

But international referees can be fairly criticised, in my view, for their failure to enforce the law relating to the "pile up". Note (ii) to law 22 lays down: "If any player in a maul goes to the ground . . . a scrummage is to be ordered unless the ball is immediately available", which it seldom is. Why does this law remain unenforced at international level, to the frustration of those of us trying to apply the laws lower down the scale?

And why has Richard Hill not been penalised under Law 26 (3) *(i)*? Surely his disgraceful use of the "dummy" at scrums, *in* order presumably to lure opponents offside (in which he seems happily to have failed totally), amounts to "misconduct . . . prejudicial to the spirit of good sportsmanship"? However, this is the same player who, in the Irish match, seemed to think that he was not offside when some 40 metres in front of a kicker and interfering with play.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID REID,
4 The Forrens,
Canterbury, Kent.

Injury insurance

From Mr Edward Grayson

Sir, Dr R. W. James (March 7) is more than justified in advocating a health levy for insurance within such a high risk game as rugby union. His plea recalls the unsuccessful High Court claim of Simon Van Oppen in the late 1980s for alleged negligent coaching and non-insurance by his school after grievous injuries in a house match.

The trigger factor on the insurance issue had been the firm recommendations, in 1979, of the Medical Officers' Schools Association, for compulsory insurance in all rugby-playing schools. So far as I am aware, that has since been implemented, and, in fairness to the Rugby Football Union, has been topped up by the Wavell Wakefield charitable trust.

More significantly recalled is a recently settled out-of-court claim by a retired headmaster, one of whose eyes was injured by a golf ball hit without warning during a fourball match. As a result, the English Golf Union recommended all clubs to take out insurance cover for their members.

One may also recall that the late Jimmy Guthrie, the pioneering chairman of what is now the Professional Footballers' Association, effected a group accident insurance scheme for all its members and that the Football Association insures players selected for international duty. So, too, do all professional clubs, as well as many rugby union clubs.

Protection for players at all levels of rugby union, from grass roots to the World Cup, by adequate insurance is the least a game becoming awash with funds can do.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
EDWARD GRAYSON,
4 Paper Buildings, EC4.

Oriel's penalty

From Mr Patrick Macdonald

Sir, The stripping of Oriel's Torpids headship — for making a genuine mistake two weeks before the competition — was a deplorable triumph of sporting politics over sporting prowess. The action was unprecedented in the regatta's long history: technical bumps have only been given for offences committed during the event itself.

Torpids is a cumulative league event, with a crew's position at the end being determined both by its own efforts and by those of all its predecessors. Positions on the river are thus assets built up over generations of students, not commodities to be adjusted between events by a politicised committee. If Mr Caralho (March 7) finds the rules to his distaste, he should lobby to have them changed, not rejoice in their manipulation. Although chasing crews do have to make up a length and a half on the boat above, the system cuts both ways: in many of the past 20 years, Oriel have produced boats several lengths faster than anybody else's, but could not improve their successors' chances of victory.

It is not too late for the Oxford University Boat Club to reverse its decision and return the four positions. If the decision is not reversed, Christ Church will have achieved a hollow victory; we shall see whether they can retain first place (they cannot honestly claim it to be the headship) until 2009.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK MacDONALD,
Am Stavenort 14,
2150 Buxtehude,
Germany.

From Ms Beth Harrison

Sir, Mr Caralho writes that Oriel "were only head of the river for so long because the chasing crew is required to be at least a length and a half quicker". This is indeed the case, and Mr Caralho clearly did not see, nor were the crowds at the boathouses informed of it, the single foot of clear water between Christ Church and Oriel in the first half of the race on Saturday of Torpids.

In Oxford, arguments about the rights of the case will doubtless run and run, but Mr Caralho has widened the debate to include criticism of Oriel's performance in all sports and of the performance of Oriel women. When he says that the women "are yet to achieve great success on the river" I am drawn to give him some statistics. In the six years since women were first accepted by Oriel, the women's first Torpid has gone up two divisions, from the bottom of the lowest division, where all new crews are required to start. With four bumps the best that can be reasonably expected of a crew in four days of racing, and with 12 boats in a division, I leave him to do the sums.

The depth of enthusiasm for rowing in Oriel is reflected in the ten boats from the college competing in Torpids this year. Of these, the four women's boats — more than any other college — made 18 starts and achieved 17 bumps.

Yours faithfully,
BETH HARRISON,
Oriel College,
Oxford.

Logic demands four-day game

From Mr Martin Collins

Sir, Two reports of March 6 have interesting implications for English cricket at a time of such dissappointing performances at all levels.

The first quotes Keith Fletcher, the England A team manager in Sri Lanka, as regretting the demise of the spinner who bowls in the UK only when the quicker bowlers need a rest. How is it, then, that certain counties have consistently opposed the introduction of a four-day championship programme where those pitches must surely increase the opportunities for spinners?

The second quotes Ali Bacher, managing director of the South African Cricket Union, as saying that Currie Cup matches are to move to four days as the proper training ground for Test cricketers in readiness for their eagerly awaited return to the fold.

Now that I read (March 7) that Ted Dexter and Micky Stewart are to retain their responsibilities on the England committee, why is it that the counties don't support them in their well publicised views that the entertaining and revenue producing one-day game has to be built around a sensible four-day championship and not vice versa?

I would be *happy* for my *logic* to be disputed because I am tired of the lack of England's success.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN COLLINS,
15 Manor Road,
Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.

From Mr Paul F. Taylor

Sir, The inclusion of Durham in the county championship from 1992 will bring the number of teams to 18. This, coupled with England's poor performance in Australia, should be used as an opportunity to review the structure of the county game.

Two divisions of nine teams should be created, with sides playing 16 games in a season. To add interest I would put forward a four-up, four-down system of promotion and relegation. Unlike the present system, it would give the majority of sides something to play for during the season and I am sure that larger crowds and more competitive games would result. To help develop Test match players, games could all be of four days' duration.

Another benefit would be that the opening and final rounds of matches would include *every* team, and with fewer games there would be less need for Test matches to clash with county championship matches.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL TAYLOR,
2 Cedar Court, The Woodlands,
Grouville, Jersey.

Leading man slips

From Mr Peter Morris

Sir, Mark Hughes has given much pleasure this season with some marvellously forthright performances as the leading man in Manchester United's attack.

What a pity that these should have been overshadowed in the Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final last week by a touch of theatricality deserving of the Oscar shortlist. It was poetic justice that United failed to secure a second goal against the resulting ten men of Montpellier.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MORRIS,
Pembury Cottage,
Pembury Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

A silent fanfare

From Mr J. A. Brennan

Sir, Mr Brooks (Sports Letters, March 7) complains about the English team not being greeted at Lansdowne Road by the national anthem. When did he last hear the Irish national anthem played at Twickenham?

Yours faithfully,
J. A. BRENNAN,
St Clare,
Sandfield Park, Liverpool 12.

Canine defence

From Mr Charles Kenney

Sir, Corrie Spaniel, of this address, takes issue with José-Mariá Olazábal for stating (report, March 11), about his performance in the final round of the Balearic Open, that he putted "like a dog".

While sympathetic with Señor Olazábal completing the round with flu, that *bug* is the more likely cause of flawed technique than the scurrilous reference to the technical ability of the canine world.

Yours faithfully,
C. KENNEY,
Blair Cottage,
West Port, Falkland, Fife.

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Conditions perfect for Cool Ground to claim Gold Cup

By MANDARIN
(MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

WITH Arctic Call, Celtic Shot, Desert Orchid, Nick The Brief, Party Politics and Twin Oaks among those standing their ground for this year's Tote Gold Cup at Cheltenham today, the battle will be joined at an early stage as they have all shown a tendency to make the running.

The resulting strong gallop should play into the hands of Cool Ground, who is taken to give Reg Akehurst and Luke Harvey their greatest success to date.

There was a time when Cool Ground was considered to be an out-and-out stayer who must have mud up to his knees to be seen at his best.

However, that fluent victory on good ground over three miles and a furlong at Wincanton last month finally knocked that theory on the head.

Afterwards, Jimmy Frost, who deputised for the injured Harvey that day, commented very favourably indeed on what a high cruising speed Cool Ground has, thus endorsing Harvey's earlier opinion at Sandown.

At Wincanton, Cool Ground was not hard pushed to beat Arctic Call by three lengths at level weights. And Arctic Call had won his three previous races, including the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury.

Later, Oliver Sherwood reported that Arctic Call was not at his best that day, but he was still beaten comprehensibly by Cool Ground, who will relish today's softer ground and longer trip.

Since Wincanton Cool Ground has pleased Akehurst, who is adamant that his horse will be hard to beat up the final hill if he is still there with a chance jumping the last.

In an attempt to win National Hunt racing's blue riband a first time, the in-form Gordon Richards saddles Carrick Hill Lad in addition to Twin Oaks, who is the choice of stable jockey Neale Doughty.

Akehurst: pleased with Cool Ground's progress

Mark Dwyer, who won the race seven years ago on Forgive'N Forget, takes over on Carrick Hill Lad, whose only defeat this season occurred at Chepstow in December when he failed by seven lengths to give Cool Ground 11lb in the Welsh National.

At level weights, there should not be much between them this time, but I still regard the former champion hurdler Celtic Shot as Cool Ground's principal rival.

Discussing his horse's chance of emulating Dawn Run, Charlie Brooks was delighted the way that Celtic Shot's preparation has gone recently. Celtic Shot was clearly not himself when he finished so far behind Desert Orchid at Kempton on Boxing Day. Before and after that Party Politics, Toby Tobias and Norton's Coin have been three of his most notable scalps.

Norton's Coin, the hero of the hour 12 months ago, has not had the best of preparations as he was struck into badly before he refused in the race won by Nick The Brief in Ireland.

Before that, Nick The Brief had run a mighty race against Desert Orchid at Sandown, albeit in receipt of 15lb. That race showed that Desert Orchid is still the greatest power in the land when he is 100 per cent and racing on right-handed courses that he so favours.

Even though he won the Gold Cup two years ago and finished third last year, he has never looked the same force at Cheltenham, where a tendency to jump to his right could cost him dear again.

This, the final day of the festival, can begin with the Irish cheering home another winner in Chirkpar, who is napped to win the *Daily Express* Triumph Hurdle.

The winner of the Irish Cesarewitch on the Flat, Chirkpar has impressed the twice he has run over hurdles this year and it is with a degree of confidence that I take him to beat Hopscotch, who must know every blade of grass at Cheltenham by now, having won their five times already this season.

Chirkpar belongs to Dr Michael Smurfit, the current sponsor of the Champion Hurdle, who also has a good chance of seeing his colours carried to victory by Kiichi in the Cathcart Challenge Cup.

As far as the Christies Foxhunter Chase is concerned, I like none better than Teaplanter, who made a deep impression when winning by ten lengths at Newbury recently.

Finally, **Boraceva** (4.05) and **Imperial Brush** (5.15) can provide the answers to the problems posed by the Ritz Club National Hunt Chase and the County Hurdle respectively.

Smith Eccles injured

STEVE Smith Eccles has stood himself down for the remainder of the Cheltenham festival following his fall in Tuesday's Champion Hurdle.

His bruised ribs continued to cause pain yesterday and Smith Eccles opted not to ride again until next week.

"Years of experience have taught me to be cautious, and there was no point in aggravating the injury," he said. Smith Eccles, who had three booked mounts yesterday, is replaced on today's Triumph Hurdle challenger Bottles by Richard Guest.

BIG-RACE LINE-UP BBC1

3.30 TOTE CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP CHASE (Grade I: £98,578: 3m 2f) (14 runners)

301 12-1112 ARCTIC CALL 21 (B,D,BF,F,G,S) (B Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 8-12-0 ...... J Osborne 81
(Royal blue, pink epaulets, pink cap)
302 32-1121 CARRICK HILL LAD 12 (G,S) (A Picken) G Richards 8-12-0 ...... M Dwyer 82
(Maroon, gold sash and cap with maroon spots)
303 1-11141 CELTIC SHOT 47 (C,G,S) (D Horton) C Brooks 9-12-0 ...... P Scudamore 93
(Pink, silver sleeves, mauve and pink hooped cap)
304 42-3111 COOL GROUND 21 (C,D,G,S) (Whitcombe Manor Ltd) R Akehurst 9-12-0 ...... L Harvey 84
(Dark blue, yellow star, sleeves and star on cap)
305 1-24141 DESERT ORCHID 40 (CD,F,G,S) (R Burridge) D Elsworth 12-12-0 ...... R Dunwoody ● 99
(Dark blue, grey sleeves and cap)
306 52121-2 GARRISON SAVANNAH 92 (B,C,G,S) (Autofour Engineering) Mrs J Pitman 8-12-0 M Pitman 81
(Orange, black star, black and orange striped sleeves, orange cap, black star)
307 0-2443P KILDIMO 19 (C,F,G,S) (Lady Harris) G Moore 11-12-0 ...... R Stronge 76
(Mauve and yellow check, yellow sleeves)
308 035000 MARTIN D'OR 12 (G) (P Gautier) P Gautier (Fr) 7-12-0 ...... J-M Joly —
(Green and white check, green sleeves, white armlet, green cap)
309 1P-3P21 NICK THE BRIEF 26 (C,F,G,S) (J Upson) J Upson 9-12-0 ...... R Supple 83
(White, dark green epaulets and star on cap)
310 231-F3R NORTON'S COIN 26 (CD,F,G,S) (S Griffiths) S Griffiths 10-12-0 ...... G McCourt 90
(Black, white hoops, black sleeves, emerald green and white quartered cap)
311 14-1211 PARTY POLITICS 61 (D,F,G,S) (D Stoddart) N Gaselee 7-12-0 ...... A Adams 75
(Claret, Eton blue spots on body, blue cap)
312 133133 THE FELLOW 78 (G,S) (Marquesa de Moratalla) F Doumen (Fr) 6-12-0 ...... A Kondrat 82
(Red, green hooped cap)
313 611111 TWIN OAKS 12 (C,G,S) (J Moreton) G Richards 11-12-0 ...... N Doughty 84
(Mauve, pink stars, mauve sleeves and cap)
314 20P-340 YAHOO 12 (B,F,G,S) (A Parker) J Edwards 10-12-0 ...... N Williamson 76
(Yellow, white epaulets, yellow sleeves, black armlets, white cap)

BETTING: 11-4 Desert Orchid, 9-2 Cool Ground, 5-1 Celtic Shot, 8-1 Nick The Brief, 9-1 Arctic Call, 10-1 Carrick Hill Lad, 12-1 Twin Oaks, 20-1 Garrison Savannah, 25-1 Norton's Coin, 33-1 Party Politics, 40-1 The Fellow, 100-1 Kildimo, Yahoo, 250-1 Martin D'Or.

1990: NORTON'S COIN 9-12-0 G McCourt (100-1) S Griffiths 12 ran

Form guide to the 14 contenders

ARCTIC CALL

Feb 21, Wincanton, good: see **COOL GROUND**.

Jan 11, Ascot, good to soft: (11-10) beat Solidasarock (10-10) 7l (3m, h'cap ch, £11,696, 6 ran).

Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-0) beat Master Bob (10-3) 2l (3m 2f 82yd, grade III h'cap ch, £36,958, 13 ran).

CARRICK HILL LAD

Mar 2, Haydock, soft: (11-8) beat Brandeston (11-8) 3½l (2m 4f, ch, £10,123, 4 ran).

Dec 22, Chepstow, good: see **COOL GROUND**.

Dec 1, Chepstow, good: (12-0) beat Mick's Star (10-7) 2½l (3m 3f, h'cap ch, £4,737, 8 ran).

CELTIC SHOT

Jan 26, Cheltenham, good: (11-12) beat Toby Tobias (11-12) 4l with **NORTON'S COIN** (11-12) 6l 3rd and **KILDIMO** (11-12) 15l 4th (3m 1f, ch, £10,163, 4 ran).

Dec 26, Kempton, good to soft: see **DESERT ORCHID**.

Dec 12, Haydock, good to soft: (11-2) beat **GARRISON SAVANNAH** (11-4) 8l with **NICK THE BRIEF** (11-10) 8l 3rd (3m, ch, £10,025, 6 ran).

Nov 21, Haydock, soft: (11-9) beat **PARTY POLITICS** (10-7) 2l (3m, h'cap ch, £10,155, 6 ran).

COOL GROUND

Feb 21, Wincanton, good: (11-0) beat **ARCTIC CALL** (11-0) 3l (3m 1f, ch, £11,100, 3 ran).

Jan 5, Sandown, good to soft: (10-11) beat Docklands Express (10-2) 7l (3m 5f 18yd, h'cap ch, £13,615, 8 ran).

Dec 22, Chepstow, good: (10-0) beat **CARRICK HILL LAD** (10-11) 7l with **YAHOO** (11-06) 15¾l 4th (3m 6f, grade III h'cap ch, £22,958, 14 ran).

DESERT ORCHID

Feb 2, Sandown, good: (12-0) beat **NICK THE BRIEF** (10-13) ¾l with **KILDIMO** (10-7) 1½l 3rd (3m 118yd, grade II h'cap ch, £20,700, 4 ran).

Jan 12, Ascot, good to soft: (12-0) 6l 4th to Blitzkreig (10-4) (2m, grade II h'cap ch, £30,282, 5 ran).

Dec 26, Kempton, good to soft: (11-10) beat Toby Tobias (11-10) 12l with **THE FELLOW** (11-10) 5l 3rd, **CELTIC SHOT** (11-10) 7l 4th and **NICK THE BRIEF** (11-10) pulled up before 4 out (3m, grade I ch, £45,190, 9 ran).

GARRISON SAVANNAH

Dec 12, Haydock, good to soft: see **CELTIC SHOT**.

Mar 14 1990, Cheltenham, good: (11-04) beat The Committee (11-4) 5l (3m, nov champ ch, £40,506, 9 ran).

Feb 21 1990, Warwick, soft: see **PARTY POLITICS**.

KILDIMO

Feb 23, Kempton, good: (11-8) pulled up before 3 out behind Docklands Express (10-7) (3m, grade III h'cap ch, £28,740, 9 ran).

Feb 2, Sandown, good: see **DESERT ORCHID**.

Jan 26, Cheltenham, good: see **CELTIC SHOT**.

MARTIN D'OR

Mar 2, Durtal, good: (10-13) fell behind Perrichois (10-03) (2m 4f, ch, £4,502, 6 ran).

Dec 16, Bordeaux, good: (10-10) pulled up behind Harol (10-12) (3m 110yd, ch, £12,862, 13 ran).

Nov 25, Auteuil, heavy: (9-11) pulled up behind Tivoli SF (10-5) (2m 7f 110yd, ch, £30,011, 10 ran).

Nov 18, Auteuil, heavy: see **THE FELLOW**.

NICK THE BRIEF

Feb 16, Leopardstown, soft to heavy: (12-0) beat Olan Lad (12-0) a distance with **NORTON'S COIN** (12-00) refused 3 out (3m, grade I ch, Ir£47,125, 6 ran).

Feb 2, Sandown, good: see **DESERT ORCHID**.

Dec 26, Kempton, good to soft: see **DESERT ORCHID**.

Dec 12, Haydock, good to soft: see **CELTIC SHOT**.

NORTON'S COIN

Feb 16, Leopardstown, soft to heavy: see **NICK THE BRIEF**

Jan 26, Cheltenham, good: see **CELTIC SHOT**.

Jan 5, Haydock, soft: (11-10) fell 6 out behind Sabin Du Loir (11-10) (2m 4f, grade I ch, £40,915, 4 ran).

PARTY POLITICS

Jan 12, Warwick, soft: (11-10) beat Bit Of A Clown (11-03) 2½l (3m 1f, ch, £5,222, 3 ran).

Dec 29, Newbury, good: (11-02) beat Von Csadek (11-09) 3½l (3m 2f 82yd, h'cap ch, £7,704, 4 ran).

Nov 21, Haydock, soft: see **CELTIC SHOT**.

Feb 21 1990, Warwick, soft: (11-7) beat **GARRISON SAVANNAH** (11-7) 7l (3m 1f, nov ch, £7,133, 9 ran).

THE FELLOW

Mar 3, Auteuil, heavy: (10-10) 3½l 3rd to Roi D'Ecajeul (10-01) (2m 1f 110yd, hdle, £10,173, 11 ran).

Dec 26, Kempton, good to soft: see **DESERT ORCHID**.

Nov 18, Auteuil, heavy: (10-5) beat Rocker (9-8) a head with **MARTIN D'OR** (9-8) 22½l 5th (3m 3f 110yd, ch, £64,309, 6 ran).

TWIN OAKS

Mar 2, Haydock, soft: (11-0) beat Bonanza Boy (11-10) 3l with **YAHOO** (11-2) tailed off 10th (3m 4f, h'cap ch, £23,962, 15 ran).

Jan 5, Haydock, soft: (12-0) beat Aquilifer (11-07) 4l (3m, h'cap ch, £6,678, 6 ran).

Dec 13, Haydock, good to soft: (11-1) beat Outside Edge (10-3) 1½l (4m, h'cap ch, £5,703, 11 ran).

YAHOO

Mar 2, Haydock, soft: see **TWIN OAKS**.

Dec 22, Chepstow, good: see **COOL GROUND**.

Dec 1, Chepstow, good: (11-8) 11l 3rd to Boraceva (10-7) (3m, grade II h'cap ch, £17,300, 6 ran).

Selection: DESERT ORCHID (nap)

CHELTENHAM

Selections

By Mandarin
2.15 CHIRKPAR (nap).
2.50 Teaplanter.
3.30 Cool Ground.
4.05 Boraceva.
4.40 Kiichi.
5.15 Imperial Brush.

By Thunderer
2.15 Pashto.
2.50 Teaplanter.
3.30 Cool Ground.
4.05 Seagram.
4.40 KIICHI (nap).
5.15 Killiney Graduate.

By Michael Seely
2.15 Chirkpar. 2.50 Teaplanter. 3.30 DESERT ORCHID (nap).

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.05 OUTSIDE EDGE.

Brian Beel's selection: 2.50 Teaplanter.

Guide to our in-line racecard

1 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ...... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

Going: good SIS

2.15 DAILY EXPRESS TRIUMPH HURDLE (Grade I: 4-Y-O: £33,109: 2m) (30 runners) BBC1

101 221351 ACCESS SUN 7 (D,F,S) (M McBride) J King 11-0 ...... J Kavanagh 88
102 154 BELAFONTE 5 (B,D,S) (S Tregarthen) R Holder 11-0 ...... E Byrne 58
103 1-25P1 BOARDING SCHOOL 15 (D,S) (Mrs M O'Toole) M O'Toole (Ire) 11-0 ...... J P Banahan 70
104 4255 BOLD STREET BLUES 5 (W Love) C Smith 11-0 ...... C Smith 50
105 123 BOTTLES 12 (BF,D,S) (Bottles Restaurant Sheringham) G Huffer 11-0 ...... R Guest 73
106 111 CHAMPAGNE GOLD 72 (D,G,S) (Mrs C Massey) J McConnochie 11-0 ...... J Shortt 70
107 415 CHEERING NEWS 19 (BF,D,S) (Dr M Smurfit) D Weld (Ire) 11-0 ...... B Sheridan 74
108 11 CHIRKPAR 26 (D,S) (Dr M Smurfit) J Bolger (Ire) 11-0 ...... L Cusack 90
109 111413 CORNWALL PRINCE 19 (D,F,S) (N Callaghan) N Callaghan 11-0 ...... D Murphy 75
110 61PP6P EGAINOR 75 (D,F) (P Zallick) R Bennett 11-0 ...... P Corrigan 67
111 582 FRENCH IVY 14 (K Flood) Mrs A King 11-0 ...... C Llewellyn 60
112 246 GILDED PAST 12 (M O'Toole) M Chapman 11-0 ...... W Worthington 60
113 220222 KEPPOLS PRINCE 19 (J Houghton) J Houghton (Ire) 11-0 ...... A Powell 75
114 1212 KIBREET 54 (BF,D,G,S) (D Smaster) D Elsworth 11-0 ...... G Bradley 80
115 11 LEGAL BEAGLE 15 (D,G,S) (Mrs A Bodie) G Harwood 11-0 ...... M Perrett 65
116 35332 NIDOMI 16 (L Fuller) G Enright 11-0 ...... R Moore 50
117 146114 NORDIC SURPRISE 2 (D,S) (E Kearns) J Bolger (Ire) 11-0 ...... Mr E J Kearns ● 99
118 115 OH SO RISKY 82 (D,F,G) (The Oh So Risky Syndicate) D Elsworth 11-0 ...... P Holley 70
119 2153 OK CORRAL 113 (D,F) (Mrs C Dartford) J White 11-0 ...... Dale McKeown 80
120 111031 OLYMPIAN 49 (B,D,F,G) (M & N Plant Ltd) T McGovern 11-0 ...... W McFarland 86
121 1 PASHTO 12 (D,S) (R Tooth) N Henderson 11-0 ...... R Dunwoody 80
122 11224 RUNWAY ROMANCE 131 (D,F) (J Kendall) P Hobbs 11-0 ...... G McCourt 86
123 251 SRIVIJAYA 14 (D,F) (A Saeed) D Nicholson 11-0 ...... J Osborne 60
124 00400 STANWAY 14 (Oxford and County Roofing Ltd) T Casey 11-0 ...... M Lynch 58
125 61 TOMAHAWK 15 (D,S) (Charles Saunders & Partners) R Holder 11-0 ...... N Mann 70
126 TRIUMPHAL SONG 21F (C Gordon-Watson) C Brooks 11-0 ...... B Powell —
127 586332 WOODSIDE HEATH 5 (M Power) J Moore 11-0 ...... A Charlton 88
128 880113 GALEVILLA EXPRESS 54 (D,S) (N Doyle) V Bowens (Ire) 10-9 ...... C Bowens 75
129 111131 HOPSCOTCH 47 (CD,F,G,S) (Pipe Scudamore Racing Plc) M Pipe 10-9 ...... P Scudamore 95
130 351P2 PERSUASIVE 22 (D,S) (W McHarg) J S Wilson 10-9 ...... M Dwyer 74

BETTING: 5-1 Chirkpar, 6-1 Hopscotch, 7-1 Pashto, 8-1 Nordic Surprise, 14-1 Olympian, Cheering News, Oh So Risky, 16-1 Cornwall Prince, 20-1 Champagne Gold, Tomahawk, Legal Beagle, 25-1 others.

1990: RARE HOLIDAY 4-11-0 B Sheridan (25-1) D Weld (Ire) 30 ran

FORM FOCUS CHAMPAGNE GOLD beat Knight's Spur 8l at Leicester (2m, soft). CHIRKPAR beat Larnaca 6l at Leopardstown (2m listed, soft to heavy) with BOARDING SCHOOL (4lb worse off) fell.
LEGAL BEAGLE beat NIDOMI (6lb worse off) 15l at Plumpton (2m, good to soft). NORDIC SUPRISE 9½l 4th of 21 to Destriero here (2m grade I, good to soft). PASHTO beat Muse 3l at Newbury (2m 100yd, good to soft) with WOODSIDE HEATH (same terms) 8l 3rd and BOLD STREET BLUES (same terms) 12½l 5th. HOPSCOTCH beat Muse 10l here (2m, good) with TOMAHAWK (7lbs worse off) 44½l 6th.
Selection: HOPSCOTCH

2.50 CHRISTIES FOXHUNTER CHASE CHALLENGE CUP (Amateurs: £15,530: 3m 2f) (19 runners) BBC1

201 1U128/2 CERTAIN LIGHT 28 (CD,G,S) (Mrs A Campbell) Mrs A Campbell 13-12-0 ...... P Hacking 87
202 22F-242 CLONROCHE GAZETTE 13 (S) (H Wheeler) H Wheeler 11-12-0 ...... H Wheeler 88
203 B/1/12-1 CRAMMER 15 (G,S) (B Matthews) D Murray Smith 11-12-0 ...... J Durkan 96
204 /U/214- EASTERN CHANT 286 (F) (Miss I Dady) Miss I Dady 9-12-0 ...... C Stockton 88
205 1123/14 KELLY'S HONOR 10 (BF,S) (R Belasco) R Bowers 12-12-0 ...... J Sharp 92
206 80/21-P LATE SESSION 13 (F) (R Savery) R Savery 7-12-0 ...... A Farrant 85
207 /4131-1 LEAN AR AGHAIDH 20 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs W Tulloch) S Mellor 14-12-0 ...... D Gray 97
208 02F1P/ LOCKNER LAD 1042 (F,S) (R Parker) R Parker 11-0 ...... A Hickman —
209 650-811 LOVELY CITIZEN 17 (S) (E O'Sullivan) E O'Sullivan (Ire) 8-12-0 ...... Mr W O'Sullivan —
210 /U12-UF OLD NICK 10 (F,S) (Mrs H Bell) Mrs H Bell 10-12-0 ...... N F Smith ● 99
211 2/64231- POLAR GLEN 290 (C,D,F) (J Cullen) J Cullen 10-12-0 ...... T Mitchell 67
212 0/1F2-1 RAWYARDS BRIG 22 (S) (R Bartlett) I Ferguson (Ire) 8-12-0 ...... P Graffin —
213 /5/12-32 ROARS OF APPLAUSE 10 (F,G) (H Hill) H Hill 9-12-0 ...... W Sporborg 82
214 1114-1F SANBALLAT 19 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs C Weatherby) D Nicholson 9-12-0 ...... J Weatherby 95
215 1R/PP0-1 STEARSBY 10 (D,G,S) (S Flurry) S Flurry 12-12-0 ...... A Walter 72
216 111-111 TEAPLANTER 13 (F,G,S) (R Russell) R Russell 8-12-0 ...... R Russell 87
217 P0/1-42 WELLINGTON BROWN 13 (F) (J Vail) J Vail 7-12-0 ...... H Rowsell 85
218 230P-63 WEST TIP 9 (BF,CD,F,G,S) (P Luff) M Oliver 14-12-0 ...... A Sansome 86
219 F/1/ DUN GAY LASS 763 (S) (Mrs P Claxton) Mrs P Claxton 9-11-9 ...... M Claxton —

● Lean Ar Aghaidh is a doubtful runner

BETTING: 11-4 Teaplanter, 5-1 Lean Ar Aghaidh, 6-1 Crammer, 8-1 Sanballat, 9-1 Rawyards Brig, 14-1 Lovely Citizen, Old Nick, Dun Gay Lass, 16-1 Certain Light, Wellington Brown, 20-1 Stearsby, 25-1 others.

1990: CALL COLLECT 9-12-0 R Martin (7-4 fav) J Parkes 15 ran

FORM FOCUS CERTAIN LIGHT, winner of this race in 1988, 2½l 2nd to LEAN AR AGHAIDH (same terms) at Kempton (3m, good) with WELLINGTON BROWN (2lb worse off) 4l 4th.
CRAMMER beat Run And Skip 3l at Nottingham (3m, good) with WEST TIP (7lb worse off) 32½l 5th and OLD NICK (2lb worse off) unseated rider. OLD NICK 2l 2nd to Call Collect in this race last year (good to firm) with WEST TIP (same terms) 3l 3rd.
RAWYARDS BRIG beat Kate Just 20l at Downpatrick (3m, heavy); earlier 20l 2nd to Ah Whisht at Punchestown (3m, good). TEAPLANTER beat WELLINGTON BROWN (same terms) 20l at Newbury (3m, good) with LATE SESSION (4lb worse) pulled up.
Selection: LEAN AR AGHAIDH (If abs CRAMMER)

3.30 TOTE CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP CHASE (Grade I: £98,578: 3m 2f) (14 runners) BBC1

RUNNERS AND RIDERS — SEE LEFT

4.5 RITZ CLUB NATIONAL HUNT HANDICAP CHASE (£29,589: 3m 1f) (14 runners) BBC2

401 3-U312F CAHERVILLAHOW 26 (G,S) (Mrs M Valentine) M Morris (Ire) 7-11-10 ...... C Swan 94
402 2F4-P6P BISHOPS YARN 82 (C,G,S) (B R B Owners 1990 Plc) G Balding 12-11-2 ...... R Guest 80
403 F10FF2 BORACEVA 24 (C,F,G,S) (Duke of Atholl) G Balding 8-10-12 ...... J Frost 93
404 320213 SEAGRAM 21 (C,D,F,G,S) (Sir Eric Parker) D Barons 11-10-11 ...... N Hawke 97
405 36-1453 SAM DA VINCI 88 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs E Wilson) D Nicholson 12-10-7 ...... R Dunwoody 96
406 2PF/6F-F GAINSAY 19 (B,CD,G,S) (Errol Brown) Mrs J Pitman 12-10-6 ...... B de Haan —
407 321/13P ALONE SUCCESS 47 (F,G,S) (D Romain) N Henderson 8-10-5 ...... J White 93
408 32U201 OUTSIDE EDGE 48 (D,S) (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 10-10-4 ...... P Scudamore ● 99
409 645P25 ENVOPAK TOKEN 24 (C,F,G,S) (F Arthur) J Gifford 10-10-0 ...... D Murphy 96
410 4410P5 PLENTY CRACK 12 (S) (B Mactaggart) B Mactaggart 8-10-0 ...... G McCourt 88
411 F/34-PF3 HETTINGER 17 (F,G,S) (C Steward) J FItch-Heyes 11-10-0 ...... E Byrne 80
412 639-281 FOREST RANGER 10 (F,S) (K Al-Said) J Edwards 9-10-0 ...... N Williamson 73
413 FP2-434 GALA'S IMAGE 22 (C,F,G,S) (B Thackray) J McConnochie 11-10-0 ...... J Shortt 78
414 112220 BEAU ROSE 115 (BF,F,G) (Combined Racing Ltd) C Trietline 8-10-0 ...... S Earle 86

Long handicap: Plenty Crack 9-7, Hettinger 8-11, Forest Ranger 8-10, Gala's Image 8-9, Beau Rose 8-7.

BETTING: 4-1 Outside Edge, 9-2 Sam Da Vinci, 5-1 Seagram, 11-2 Boraceva, 6-1 Cahervillahow, 7-1 Alone Success, 14-1 Envopak Token, 20-1 Plenty Crack, Forest Ranger, 25-1 Gainsay, 33-1 others.

1990: BIGSUN 9-10-11 R Dunwoody (15-2) D Nicholson 14 ran

FORM FOCUS CAHERVILLAHOW 4l 3rd to Arctic Call in grade I Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury (3m 2f 82yd, good to firm) with SAM DA VINCI (10lb better off) 2½l 4th and SEAGRAM (4lb better off) distant 9th.
SEAGRAM beat Bonanza Boy 3l here (4m, good to soft) penultimate with BORACEVA (6lb better off) fell 18th. SAM DA VINCI 17l 3rd to Cool Ground at Sandown (3m 5f 18yd, good to soft) with ENVOPAK TOKEN (3lb better off) pulled up. ALONE SUCCESS 9l 3rd to Arctic Call at Ascot (3m, good to soft) penultimate start with BISHOPS YARN (4lb better off) pulled up, previously beat Mweenish 2½l at Newbury (3m, good) with GALA'S IMAGE (7lb worse off) 27l 4th.
OUTSIDE EDGE beat ENVOPAK TOKEN (9lb better off) 8l at Newton Abbot (3m 2f 100yd, soft). FOREST RANGER beat Le Grand Maitre 1½l at Windsor (3m 4f, good to soft).
Selection: SAM DA VINCI

4.40 CATHCART CHALLENGE CUP CHASE (£25,357: 2m 4f) (8 runners)

501 U12125 BLITZKREIG 1 (G,S) (J McManus) E O'Grady (Ire) 8-11-7 ...... NON-RUNNER —
502 222120 AL HASHIMI 1 (BF,CD,F,G) (J Hobbs) D Nicholson 7-11-3 ...... R Dunwoody ● 99
503 22-1031 KIICHI 12 (G,S) (Dr M Smurfit) D Weld (Ire) 8-11-3 ...... B Sheridan 93
504 13F223 ASTON EXPRESS 12 (B,D,G,S) (J Featherstone) G Moore 8-11-0 ...... M Dwyer 85
505 22F12-1 CHATAM 107 (D,F,S) (Dr B Nolan) M Pipe 7-11-0 ...... P Scudamore 96
506 P2583P NODFORM 20 (F,G,S) (H Joel) J Gifford 7-11-0 ...... D Murphy 85
507 34-535P ROYAL CRAFTSMAN 78 (F,G) (A Dunn) A Dunn 10-11-0 ...... S Earle 85
508 211-431 WESTERN LEGEND 21 (D,G,S) (Miss J Laing) J Edwards 7-11-0 ...... N Williamson 88

BETTING: 7-4 Chatam, 2-1 Kiichi, 7-1 Al Hashimi, 14-1 Aston Express, Western Legend, 16-1 Nodform, 33-1 Royal Craftsman.

1990: BROWN WINDSOR 8-11-3 J White (13-8 fav) N Henderson 8 ran

FORM FOCUS AL HASHIMI ran 5.15 yesterday; earlier beat ASTON EXPRESS (3lb better off) ½l over course and distance (good) penultimate with NODFORM (3lb better off) 2l 3rd.
KIICHI beat Irish Wind (rec 29lb) 1l at Navan (2m 3f, heavy). CHATAM beat Bob Tisdall 15l in Newton Abbot (3m 2f 100yd, good to soft) handicap; beat NODFORM (8lb better off) a distance at Newbury (2m 4f, heavy) last term. WESTERN LEGEND beat Our Nobby neck at Wincanton (2m 5f, good).
Selection: KIICHI

5.15 72nd YEAR OF THE COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade III: £23,995: 2m) (26 runners)

601 1-00430 RARE HOLIDAY 2 (CD,F) (Dr M Smurfit) D Weld (Ire) 5-11-10 ...... B Sheridan 92
602 2-0P040 WINDBOUND LASS 21 (D,F,G,S) (R Savery) R Holder 6-11-6 ...... Mr A Farrant (7) 87
603 841481 MASS APPEAL 12 (D,S) (W Mooney) V Bowens (Ire) 6-11-6 (7ex) ...... C Swan 89
604 54322-P SMART PERFORMER 12 (D,G,S) (R Gomersall) N Tinkler 6-11-4 ...... G McCourt 88
605 33214-5 SACRE D'OR 78 (D,G,S) (J Fryer) J Mackie 6-11-4 ...... S J O'Neill 90
606 028131 RE-RELEASE 13 (D,S) (J Ennis) M Pipe 6-11-3 ...... D Richmond (7) 93
607 331112 KILLINEY GRADUATE 12 (D,F,S) (V O'Reilly) F Lennon (Ire) 5-11-1 ...... C O'Dwyer 90
608 8-1348P SPRING HAY 12 (D,G,S) (A Saeed) D Nicholson 5-11-1 ...... R Dunwoody 91
609 348-341 IMPERIAL BRUSH 12 (B,D,G,S) (Peter Pufion) D Elsworth 7-11-0 ...... P Holley ● 98
610 80-011F RUN TO FORM 5 (B,BF,D,G,S) (Mrs R Allen) Mrs J Pitman 6-10-13 ...... M Pitman 82
611 0P/1-082 LEMHILL 12 (D,F) (P Green) M Pipe 9-10-13 ...... P Scudamore 87
612 081-300 TIMMINION 13 (D,F,G,S) (R Dawson) A Stringer 9-10-12 ...... J J Quinn 87
613 220238 MIDFIELDER 26 (D,S) (Bournstream "7") P Hobbs 5-10-11 ...... S Earle 96
614 010105 SAGAMAN 22 (D,G,S) (R Buck) L Codd 5-10-10 ...... — 90
615 2U1-26P TARTAN TAILOR 110 (CD,F,G,S) (Edinburgh Woollen Mill) G Richards 10-10-7 M Dwyer 98
616 021115 CELTIC BOB 28F (D,F,S) (O O'Neill) O O'Neill 11-10-6 ...... V Slattery (7) 91
617 3-21011 THE WIDGET MAN 22 (D,G,S) (A Tailey) J Gifford 5-10-4 ...... D Murphy 90
618 000411 LIGHT DANCER 54 (D,F,G,S) (R Owen) L Codd 5-10-4 ...... — 89
619 0112-40 IVORS GUEST 12 (B,D,F) (Mrs E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 5-10-3 ...... F Murtagh (7) 94
620 213-143 ONE FOR THE POT 5 (BF,D,G,S) (K Wheldon) Mrs J Ramsden 6-10-3 J Twomey (7) 95
621 10-F46 CYPHRATE 17 (D,S) (Allas Smith & Jones Racing Ltd) M Pipe 5-10-3 ...... J Lower 90
622 04-8410 VA LUTE 20 (D,F,S) (Castle Farm Stud) R Holder 7-10-3 ...... N Mann 90
623 02-21U5 WINNIE THE WITCH 82 (BF,D,S) (Paddock Ltd) K Bridgwater 7-10-1 D Bridgwater (7) 94
624 312220 MAD TOM 11 (D,S) (Mrs C Marks) Miss S Duffy (Ire) 6-10-1 ...... M Lynch 96
625 11F-152 M I BABE 51 (D,F,G) (A Suckling) Mrs I McKie 6-10-0 ...... R Beggan 93
626 233124 PAPAJOTO 22 (D,F,G,S) (D Price) M O'Neill 6-10-0 ...... L Wyer 82

Long handicap: M I Babe 9-12, Papajoto 9-4.

BETTING: 8-1 Imperial Brush, One For The Pot, 9-1 Lemhill, 12-1 M I Babe, 14-1 The Widget Man, Light Dancer, Run To Form, 16-1 Killiney Graduate, Rare Holiday, Midfielder, Re-Release, Va Lute, 20-1 others.

1990: MOODY MAN 5-11-2 Peter Hobbs (9-1) P Hobbs 20 ran

FORM FOCUS MASS APPEAL beat Dispusation at Naas (2m, heavy). SMART PERFORMER ½l 2nd to Moody Man in this race last year (good to firm) with WINDBOUND LASS (7lb better off) 20½l 7th.
RE-RELEASE beat Hey Cottage at Haydock (2m 4f, soft); earlier beat Nastell a short head at Taunton (2m 110yd, good to soft) with IVORS GUEST (14lb better off) 10½l 4th, CELTIC BOB (9lb better off) 4l 5th, CYPHRATE (14lb better off) fell 6th and MIDFIELDER (10lb better off) unseated rider 2nd.
KILLINEY GRADUATE completed treble when beating Monasteroris 4l at Leopardstown (2m, soft-heavy). IMPERIAL BRUSH beat LEMHILL 1½l at Newbury (2m 100yd, good to soft) with IVORS GUEST 34½l 7th, SMART PERFORMER and SPRING HAY pulled up (all same terms). RUN TO FORM beat Smooth Escort 2½l in Worcester (3m, soft) novice chase penultimate start.
THE WIDGET MAN beat Sharpgun 1½l at Warwick (2m, good to soft) with PAPAJOTO (2lb worse off) 4l 4th, SAGAMAN (5lb better off) 2½l 5th and LEMHILL (10lb better off) 3l 6th. LIGHT DANCER beat Ockley 10l at Kempton (2m 4f, good) with RUN TO FORM (10lb better off) 23l 9th.
Selection: IMPERIAL BRUSH

Festival course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
G Balding	6	29	20.7	Mr P Hacking	2	4	50.0
N Henderson	6	36	16.7	R Guest	2	8	25.0
O Sherwood	4	30	13.3	J Frost	2	9	22.2
D Nicholson	4	36	11.1	M Perrett	3	15	20.0
J Edwards	4	43	9.3	B de Haan	2	10	20.0
J Gifford	6	65	9.2	R Dunwoody	7	55	12.7

(Not including yesterday's results)

HEXHAM

Selections

By Mandarin
2.00 Mount Ailey.
2.35 Cornet.
3.10 Eastern Whisper.
3.45 Into The Mystic.
4.20 Arthur's Stone.
4.55 Barkin.
5.25 Bellezza.

By Thunderer
2.00 Trublion.
2.35 Sweet City.
3.10 Eastern Whisper.
3.45 Bow Handy Man.
4.20 Azusa.
4.55 Eborneezer's Dream.
5.25 Sir Buzz.

Going: soft SIS

2.0 RIDING MILL NOVICES HURDLE (£1,719: 3m) (10 runners)

1 0/00031 BOWLANDS WAY 47 (G) (Mrs L Campion) G Richards 7-11-3 ...... D Byrne 85
2 6-04610 TRUBLION 51 (S) (T Hemmings) S Mellor 6-11-3 ...... Mr D Gray 82
3 14-5P6P BORDER OAK 6 (F) (I Pearson) J Charlton 8-10-10 ...... B Storey —
4 5-P00 FOSSWAY MERCHANT 8 (B) (Lady Renwick) G Coatsworth 6-10-10 ...... T Reed —
5 F550/04 GEEBEETEEVEE 9 (Scotnorth Racing Ltd) Mrs S Austin 10-10-10 ...... D Wilkinson —
6 005 MONKSACRE 9 (W Stephenson) W A Stephenson 7-10-10 ...... C Grant —
7 0060/23 SILAS 8 (G Faber) M Hammond 8-10-10 ...... P Niven 93
8 0F5P UNOR 20 (Miss H Hamilton) T Tate 5-10-10 ...... W Fry (7) 87
9 /0060/0- CALMATA 375 (Lady Ann Bowlby) Lady Ann Bowlby 10-10-5 ...... — —
10 3034 MOUNT AILEY 15 (Miss L Halliwell) Mrs V Aconley 5-10-5 ...... J Corkell (7) ● 99

BETTING: 9-4 Mount Ailey, 3-1 Trublion, 9-2 Bowlands Way, 5-1 Silas, 7-1 Geebeeteevee, 10-1 others.

1990: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

2.35 ALLERWASH NOVICES CHASE (£2,173: 2m) (6 runners)

1 144102 CARTHAGENA COTTAGE 36 (P Aconley) Mrs V Aconley 6-11-3 ...... J Corkell (7) —
2 23/412/3- CHRISTMAS HOLLY 135P (F,G,S) (R Wood) Mrs G Reveley 10-11-3 ...... P Niven —
3 60U502- ROYAL TRIBUTE 313 (B Rutter) N Chamberlain 6-11-3 ...... G Harker 70
4 68223-F SWEET CITY 106 (BF,S) (D Little) G Richards 6-11-3 ...... L O'Hara (3) —
5 44321F CORNET 19 (V,D,BF,G,S) (Duke of Sutherland) Denys Smith 5-11-2 ...... C Grant ● 99
6 P6-443F THE PRIDE OF POKEY 46 (R Black) Mrs S Bradburne 7-10-12 ...... Mr J Bradburne —

BETTING: 7-4 Cornet, 5-2 Sweet City, 3-1 Christmas Holly, 10-1 Carthagena Cottage, 14-1 others.

1990: ASTRE RADIEUX 5-11-3 Mr D Gray (4-6 fav) S Mellor 13 ran

3.10 COASTLEY NOVICES HURDLE (£1,475: 2m) (17 runners)

1 2-02212 UPWELL 168 (F) (R Johnson) R Johnson 7-11-6 ...... Mr P Johnson 74
2 4043 BURN BRIDGE 70 (S) (Gill & Punter/Elec Ltd) M Hammond 5-11-1 ...... P Niven ● 99
3 00-P CORMAC'S 61 (A Batey) A Batey 5-11-1 ...... J O'Gorman (3) —
4 014225 EASTERN WHISPER 15 (D,G) (K Higson) Denys Smith 4-11-1 ...... G Moore 94
5 80-5 MASHUM 118 (A Batey) A Batey 5-11-1 ...... K Doolan 80
6 0R00 MASTER WOODVILLE 42 (S Rettie) Mrs S Bradburne 7-11-1 ...... D Nolan —
7 424- POSSETIVE PLANT 404 (Mrs J Armstrong) L Lungo 6-11-1 ...... L O'Hara (3) 98
8 034 SILVER GURU 17 (Col R Crossley) O Brennan 6-11-1 ...... M Brennan 89
9 0PPP05 ZARBANO 19 (Mrs I Forrest) R Lamb 5-11-1 ...... N Smith (5) —
10 0/5-0004 DOLLY PRICES 8 (W Smith) W Smith 6-10-10 ...... D Condell 72
11 58- GLENLAW 517 (A Peffers) T Cuthbert 6-10-10 ...... Carol Cuthbert (7) —
12 4025/0-6 JUST PRETEND 19 (T Whitfield) V Thompson 7-10-10 ...... R Garritty 86
13 6/P/0 MAKE A BEE LINE 48 (P Lamyman) Mrs S Lamyman 7-10-10 ...... D Telfer —
14 P0P-P PRETTY PRECOCIOUS 22 (W Taylor) J Birkett 5-10-10 ...... A Jones —
15 82 FACILITY LETTER 19 (Whitworth Racing) G Moore 4-10-7 ...... J Callaghan (3) 65
16 40 GREENFIELD MANOR 110 (N Chamberlain) N Chamberlain 4-10-7 ...... G Harker —
17 0 RURAL OUTFIT 8 (Mrs S Hutchinson) M Dods 4-10-7 ...... A Merrigan —

BETTING: 5-2 Eastern Whisper, 3-1 Facility Letter, 9-2 Upwell, 6-1 Mashum, 8-1 Possetive Plant, 10-1 Burn Bridge, 12-1 others.

1990: KHARIF 6-11-4 R Garritty (6-5 fav) R Allan 16 ran

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
S Mellor	3	5	60.0	A J Quinn	3	5	60.0
M Hammond	6	18	33.3	C Grant	46	196	23.5
G Moore	27	85	31.8	D Nolan	11	56	19.6
C Thornton	3	10	30.0	J Callaghan	5	30	16.7
Jimmy Fitzgerald	10	41	24.4	R Garritty	5	31	16.1
G Richards	33	144	22.9	P Niven	16	100	16.0

3.45 WIN WITH THE TOTE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,028: 4m) (10 runners)

1 511P0P PAMPERING 6 (G,S) (Mrs J Brockbank) J Brockbank 10-11-10 ...... C Grant 93
2 U12123 BOW HANDY MAN 9 (G,S) (D Morland) Denys Smith 9-11-1 ...... P Waggott (7) 93
3 6311-63 TARTEVIE 5 (C,D,F,S) (Major M Sample) G Coatsworth 13-10-13 ...... A Merrigan 96
4 31RF03 THE MALTKILN 8 (V,BF,G,S) (H Young) M Hammond 8-10-9 ...... P Niven 97
5 222352 INTO THE MYSTIC 9 (B,F,S) (Mrs D McLean) B McLean 9-10-6 ...... N Smith (7) 98
6 3/2BP-FP BOLD SPARTAN 12 (S) (R Kirkland) K Oliver 8-10-5 ...... T Reed —
7 3153-P2 SUPER FOUNTAIN 5 (S) (Mrs F Walton) F Walton 8-10-2 ...... B Storey ● 99
8 PPP5-P4 BOREEN KING 13 (F,S) (C Ellis) S Mellor 10-10-0 ...... Mr D Gray 88
9 P-132P5 GROVELANDS 52 (F,S) (P Smith) R Curtis 9-10-0 ...... D Morris 96
10 432F5U BULLET TRAIN 6 (S) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 8-10-0 ...... J Callaghan (3) 95

Long handicap: Grovelands 9-12, Bullet Train 9-9.

BETTING: 11-4 Bow Handy Man, 7-2 Into The Mystic, 9-2 Pampering, 6-1 Dubolus Jake, 7-1 Super Fountain, 10-1 Bullet Train, 12-1 Grovelands, 14-1 others.

1990: RUBIKA 7-11-3 Mr D Gray (4-1) S Mellor 14 ran

4.20 FALLOWFIELD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,675: 2m) (8 runners)

1 3100-P6 VALE OF SECRECY 8 (F,S) (Mrs D Miller) R Fisher 10-12-0 ...... N Roche (7) ● 99
2 6/0-0011 TIMURS DOUBLE 41 (D,F,G,S) (C Sample) W Sample 10-11-13 ...... L O'Hara 93
3 60/113 BLUEHAVEN FLYER 119 (D,F,G) (A Batey) A Batey 6-11-10 ...... N Smith 94
4 43-1262 FAR MORE 82 (F) (A Watson) Ronald Thompson 5-11-10 ...... M Lees (7) 95
5 FF1105 AZUSA 6 (CD,F,G) (D Ward) M Hammond 8-11-9 ...... D Bentley (7) 94
6 001136 FLEET FOOTED 22 (D,F,S) (P Williams) D Topley 8-11-5 ...... R Hodge 98
7 00P134 ARTHURS STONE 10 (D,S) (O Brennan) O Brennan 5-10-7 ...... B Ryan (7) 96
8 1465-00 VICTORY BOY 5 (F) (T K Cuthbert) T Cuthbert 13-10-0 ...... Carol Cuthbert (7) 96

Long handicap: Victory Boy 9-6.

BETTING: 9-4 Timurs Double, 7-2 Bluehaven Flyer, 9-2 Fleet Footed, 6-1 Azusa, 8-1 Vale Of Secrecy, 10-1 Far More, 12-1 others.

1990: AZUSA 7-10-12 S Turner (20-1) Miss M Milligan 17 ran

4.55 PLOVER HILL NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,290: 3m) (12 runners)

1 P/322FF BARKIN 72 (BF) (C Jenkins) G Richards 8-12-0 ...... C Grant 89
2 28-1014 TULUM 19 (G,S) (M Ogden) Mrs G Reveley 8-12-0 ...... P Niven —
3 3/42F-P KITANGO 8 (D Kennedy) L Lungo 10-11-5 ...... F Perratt (7) ● 99
4 202P0F HE WHO DARES WINS 15 (S) (I Cheesbrough) W A Stephenson 8-11-2 ... Mr K Johnson 86
5 28PP2P BRUSHFORD 41 (J Wade) J Wade 7-11-1 ...... K Jones 90
6 4/6354-P BUSTAMENTE 16 (Mrs E Gilgans) J White 8-11-1 ...... A Jones —
7 45FP30 AH JIM LAD 45 (A McPherson) P Monteith 7-11-0 ...... L O'Hara 90
8 0/20-6U5 EBORNEEZER'S DREAM 48 (P Lamyman) Mrs S Lamyman 8-10-11 ...... D Telfer 82
9 0480-P6 MUCK OR MONEY 83 (Mrs S Hardman) J Charlton 7-10-10 ...... B Storey 81
10 3-FFF04 KNOWE HEAD 9 (J Hodgson) J Johnson 7-10-10 ...... A G Smith 86
11 3040/0P TORRINGTON WARRIOR 8 (D Todd) D Todd 11-10-10 ...... A J Quinn —
12 0U-P500 CROSSETT CRUSADER 31 (B) (E Caine) E Caine 11-10-10 ...... Mr J Bearstead —

BETTING: 15-8 Tulum, 3-1 Barkin, 4-1 He Who Dares Wins, 6-1 Knowe Head, 8-1 Brushford, 12-1 Ah Jim Lad, 14-1 others.

1990: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

5.25 LEVY BOARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,880: 1m 4f) (17 runners)

1 0 DAVARA 45 (D Nicholson) S Leadbetter 5-11-8 ...... G Thomson (7) —
2 6 KINGS LAW 6 (D Scott) D Scott 5-11-8 ...... Mr D Scott —
3 8 MR SLATE 22 (J Hellens) J Johnson 5-11-8 ...... B McGhill (5) —
4 40- SANTARAY 343 (S Taberner) J Mackie 5-11-8 ...... S D Williams (7) —
5 ANZARNA (Mrs S Taylor) Mrs S Taylor 6-11-3 ...... Mr N Hargreave (7) —
6 FARMERS GLORY (K Morton) K Morton 5-11-3 ...... Miss J Norton —
7 WHO'S SILLY NOW (I Pearson) J Charlton 5-11-3 ...... J O'Gorman (3) —
8 P COULTON 6 (M Easterby) M W Easterby 4-11-0 ...... C Ryan (7) —
9 DUAL IMAGE (Jimmy Fitzgerald) Jimmy Fitzgerald 4-11-0 ...... W Dwan (7) —
10 5 JIMMY MAC JIMMY 45 (Mrs E Hewitson) J S Wilson 4-11-0 ...... L O'Hara (3) —
11 NANDA MOON (B Pocock) C Thornton 4-11-0 ...... J Callaghan (3) —
12 PRINCETHORPE (G Farndon) R Whitaker 4-11-0 ...... Gary Lyons (3) —
13 RHY-GYE (H Chay) R Woodhouse 4-11-0 ...... N Smith (5) —
14 SIR BUZZ (D Gibbin) Mrs G Reveley 4-11-0 ...... R Hodge (7) —
15 25 BELLEZZA 12 (K Higson) Denys Smith 4-10-9 ...... D Crossman (7) —
16 CHERRYMERRY (Mrs D Hyman) G Richards 4-10-9 ...... N Leach (7) —
17 0 STRATHRUSDALE 22 (D Dunbar) P Monteith 4-10-9 ...... A Dobbin (7) —

BETTING: 3-1 Dual Image, 4-1 Jimmy Mac Jimmy, 9-2 Nanda Moon, 6-1 Cherrymerry, 8-1 Sir Buzz, 10-1 Bellezza, 12-1 others.

1990: FAIRWAYS ON TARGET 4-10-7 R Hodge (10-11 fav) Mrs G Reveley 17 ran

Cheltenham results

Going: good to soft

2.15 (2m 4f hdle) 1, CRYSTAL SPIRIT (J Frost, 2-1 fav); 2, Minorettes Girl (A Mullins, 4-1); 3, Super Sense (D Murphy, 40-1). ALSO RAN: 10 Tyrone Bridge, 14 Change The Act (pu), Upton Park (6th), 16 Captain Dibble, South Harvest (4th), 20 Egypt Mill Prince (5th), 25 Burgoyne (pu), One More Knight, Saddler's Choice, 33 Cache Fleur, Secret Four, Strong Beau, 40 Your Well, 50 Moze Tidy, Master Dancer, 66 Mister Gebo, Rocktor, Yeoman Metro, 100 Blazing Touch, Espving, Black Sapphire, 200 Shadow Run, Soupcon (pu), 250 Ballyento, 500 Highgate Mild (pu), Juranstan. 29 ran. NR: Always Alway. 4l, 2l, 5l, 6l, hd. I Balding at Kingsclere. Tote: £3.00; £1.70, £2.00, £28.50. DF: £4.50. CSF: £9.70. Tricast: £243.42.

2.50 QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE (Grade I: £62,070: 2m)

KATABATIC br g Strong Gale — Garravogue (Pell-mell Partners) 8-12-0 S McNeill (9-1) 1.

Waterloo Boy ch g Deep Run — Sapphire Red (M Deeley) 8-12-0 R Dunwoody (Evens fav) 2.

Nos Na Gaoithe br g Strong Gale — Abroad (P Green) 8-12-0 L Wyer (66-1) 3.

ALSO RAN: 100-30 Blitzkreig (5th), 7-2 Young Snugfit (4th), 33 Golden Freeze, 66 The A Train (6th). 7 ran. 7l, 6l, sh hd, 10l, 20l. A Turnell at Wantage. Tote: £9.40; £2.80, £1.50. DF: £5.10. CSF: £17.50.

3.30 (3m 1f hdle) 1, DANNY CONNORS (M Dwyer, 9-1); 2, Kings Rank (D Richmond, 33-1); 3, Randolph Place (N Doughty, 25-1); 4, Holy Joe (J Osborne, 11-1). ALSO RAN: 8 fav Celtic Barle, 9 Father Time, 10 Catch The Cross, Royal Astronaut, 12 Banker's Gossip, 14 Wadtway (pu), 16 Eastern Oasis, Mosiagera, 20 More Fool You (pu), Bosceen Chieftain (pu), 25 Sir Crusty, I'm Confident, Rogers Princess (f), Stupid Cupid (5th), Young Bavard, Tarkovsky, 33 Mushaqaq, 50 Flying Dancer, Cima (6th), Pokerae (pu), 100 Tortaber (ref to race), Great Sailing, Fly For Us, Cnoc An Oir, Look Lively. 29 ran. 4l, nk, 1l, 1l, 1½l. J O'Neill at Penrith. Tote: £13.40; £3.00, £19.60, £6.50, £2.50. DF: £1,611.60. CSF: £250.39. Tricast: £6,366.46. After a stewards' enquiry, result stood.

4.05 (3m ch) 1, ROLLING BALL (P Scudamore, 7-2 fav); 2, Esha Ness (M Bowlby, 14-1); 3, Whats The Crack (B Dowling, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Sparkling Flame (f), 15-2 Fifth Amendment (pu), 9 Formula One (6th), 10 Laura's Beau (5th), 14 Cloughtaney (f), Rawhide (4th), 20 Mayoran (f), 25 General Highway (bd), Southerly Buster (pu), 33 Bonsai Bud, Coruscate (pu), Kilbaron (f), 50 Givus A Buck (f), Terry Jo (pu), 100 Winabuck (pu), 150 Bolshoi Boy (pu), Complete Optimist (f). 20 ran. NR: Friars Law, Orbis. 2½l, sh hd, 2½l, 10l, nk. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £3.90; £2.30, £6.50, £4.00. DF: £85.10. CSF: £47.66. Tricast: £802.23.

4.40 (4m ch) 1, SMOOTH ESCORT (Mr A J Martin, 7-1); 2, Windy Ways (Mr G Johnson Houghton, 11-2); 3, Bit Of A Clown (Mr I McKie, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 5-1 fav Senator Of Rome (pu), 6 Mendrad Shuffle (4th), Gold Cap (f), 11 Wot Pet, 14 Fighting Jessica (ur), Llama Pride, Sam Shorrock (pu), 16 Heart Of Kings (pu), Judgment Day (6th), 25 Chancery Buck (pu), 66 Tryumphant Lad (5th), 100 Time Module, 150 Sandbrook (pu), 200 Jolie Gazelle, Lyningem (pu). 18 ran. 2l, 25l, ¾l, 25l, 20l. Mrs D Haine at Newmarket. Tote: £9.30; £2.40, £2.10, £2.30. DF: £21.20. CSF: £43.87.

5.15 (2m 4f ch) 1, FOYLE FISHERMAN (E Murphy, 33-1); 2, Romany King (R Guest, 5-1); 3, Gold Options (M Dwyer, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 3-1 fav Al Hashimi (6th), 7 Mr Entertainer, 8 Fu's Lady (pu), 10 Cuddy Dale, 12 Ida's Delight (5th), 14 Lacidar, 20 Auntie Dot, Skipping Tim, 25 Wink Gulliver (4th), Fit For Firing (f), 66 Royal Cracker, 200 Shoingo (ur). 15 ran. NR: New Halen. 2l, 2½l, 2½l, 5l, 5l. J Gifford at Findon. Tote: £70.80; £9.70, £2.30, £2.80. DF: £160.10. CSF: £177.49. Tricast: £1,198.59.

Jackpot: Not won. Pool of £85,604.45 carried forward to Cheltenham today.
Placepot: £803.70.

Newton Abbot

Going: heavy

2.0 (2m 150yd hdle) 1, Repaldo (A Tory, 4-1); 2, One To Note (4-1); 3, Jessele (33-1). Batesani 13-8 fav. 12 ran. NR: Torrance. 1½l, 20l. R Hodges. Tote: £4.80; £1.50, £1.80, £12.70. DF: £24.60. CSF: £25.63. Tricast: £459.86.

2.35 (2m 150yd ch) 1, Evening Rain (A Tory, 15-1); 2, Military Band (4-1). Blue Bourbon 4-6 fav. 7 ran. Two finished. 20l. R Hodges. Tote: £13.40; £2.30, £2.20. DF: £19.40. CSF: £80.71.

3.10 (2m 150yd hdle) 1, Sedgewell Orchid (E Byrne, 20-1); 2, Rathmichael (25-1); 3, Acrow Line (9-1). Miss Chalk 3-1 fav. 15 ran. NR: Belpenel, Donna's Token, Sheikh's Pet. 10l, 2l. R Holder. Tote: £33.70; £7.30, £7.10, £4.50. DF: £591.40. CSF: £431.97. Tricast: £4333.28.

3.45 (3m 2f 100yd ch) 1, Gay Moore (J White, 15-8 fav); 2, Mister Christian (5-2); 3, Sandcliffe Boy (8-1). 7 ran. ½l, 25l. M Robinson. Tote: £3.00; £1.80, £1.80. DF: £3.40. CSF: £7.71.

4.20 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, George Buckingham (M A Fitzgerald, 5-4 fav); 2, Celtic Diamond (S Burrough, 3-1); 3, Daves Delight (Miss S Waterman, 13-2). 14 ran. NR: Driver, Punky Knave. 4l, 3½l. G Ham. Tote: £2.60; £1.90, £1.40, £1.80. DF: £3.80. CSF: £7.51.

4.55 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1, Silks Domino (V Slattery, 9-2); 2, Vomero (12-1); 3, Mazzlara (N Coleman, 7-1); 4, Grace Moore (10-1). Shah's Choice 5-2 fav. 18 ran. 3½l, 25l. O O'Neill. Tote: £7.80; £1.50, £2.20, £2.60, £1.70. DF: £42.20. CSF: £58.12. Tricast: £372.96.

Placepot: £1145.80.

Caustic critics should be more constructive

England fell at the final hurdle in the five nations' rugby union championship last season but Rob Andrew, the England stand-off, says the team is in a tougher frame of mind for this year's deciding match against France at Twickenham

Criticism lies thick in the air. Why should this be when rugby union has never been in better shape at club and national level in England?

Any foreign sports enthusiast visiting here would be forgiven for believing that the England team was bottom of the championship table and that club rugby was in the doldrums. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Rugby is enjoying a higher profile than ever, England are going for the championship for the third year in succession, the clubs are more vigorous and outward looking, teams at all levels are playing more purposeful rugby, and sponsors are keen to lend their support to a flourishing game.

I may be accused of painting too rosy a picture or taking too simplistic a view. But the facts are self-evident, at least to those of us in the game.

Of course, everything is not perfect and players at the sharp end, like the England squad and those near the top of the Courage League, expect to be criticised when they foul up. But what gets me, and many other players, is the manner of the criticism. There appears to be little constructive about some of it. It is hardly credible that the fact France were able to run in those six tries against Wales a fortnight ago has been used by some critics to beat England over the head.

Some people seem to go to extraordinary lengths to find a way to put down England. Does that sound a bit paranoid? Are those misguided critics actually getting to us? Far from it, but we do find the ill-considered comments irksome.

No one should decry constructive criticism — it helps broaden the view in any discussion of this great sport.

But television pundits appear so caustic in their approach these days. When I first came into the England team five years ago, it was a case of a straight forward commentary on the international match, a few comments by a former international and that was it. People were allowed to make up their own mind about a game.

Now, we have what passes for deep analysis with diagrams covering the screen. Half the time, the passages of play they highlight to supposedly prove a point could just as easily be used to prove the opposite.

I suppose it was inevitable with the ever-rising profile of the game — what with the leagues, the championship and the World Cup — that there would be more media attention. But it seems to have got *out* of proportion. There are so many more people in the media covering the game and they are all trying to get stories.

They are having to cover every possible angle to get something different and then take it to the nth degree. We are living under a microscope and are being prodded and poked from all directions. The professionals are having a constant dig at the amateurs.

Some are having a go at what they see as dour league games, complaining that the need to collect league points was forcing teams to produce unattractive rugby and it was not what was needed.

That view seems to be at odds with what the public think — and definitely at odds with what the players think. More spectators than ever are going to support their local teams as they battle it out in the leagues, and that is attracting more money into the game as sponsors jump on the bandwagon.

Like every player I talk to, I prefer league rugby. It gives games more meaning and purpose. Gone are the days when the big clubs would stick rigidly to a traditional fixture list which would often produce pointless rugby, with one side being completely dominant, and produce games which did little for any of the teams involved.

Those sort of games used to be the breeding ground for bad playing habits which players would carry into the England team. These days, players are fitter, better prepared — mentally and physically — and they are committed to ridding their play of mistakes. The end result is better club rugby — and a better England team.

Players in the first division are well organised, highly trained and regularly playing pressure rugby against tight defences. They all want to be in the England A or B teams — that is the kind of animal the league is now. No one is going to reverse the situation; it is constant pressure rugby for those at the top.

There is a price to pay for all this commitment to the cause. The amount of time a player at the highest level has to give is considerable, particularly when trying to establish and hold on to a career in these competitive times.

It causes a few raised eyebrows when it is pointed out just how much time an international player has to give to the game during the five nations' championship. By Saturday, England players will have taken part in three internationals together with a testing league and cup game in a four-week period.

Just take what has happened to me since the England build-up started for the game against Ireland a week last Saturday:

Straight after the tough Pilkington Cup match against Orrell at Sudbury the *previous* Saturday (February 23): reported to the England squad headquarters in Richmond for a team briefing by Geoff Cooke, the manager, and discussion on team matters.

Sunday: 9am start, attend video session on previous match and discuss. Late morning, attend squad session at the Stoop Memorial Ground. Lunch at Twickenham, then disperse. A long-distance trip by plane or car for many, only a half an hour drive home for me, luckily.

Tuesday: At office during day. At Wasps club training session in evening (personal training with weights as I am not in the Wasps team on Saturday).

Wednesday: Report to Stoop for England squad training with those who have reached there in time. Settle in hotel headquarters.

Thursday: 9am training session. Afternoon, depart for Heathrow and Dublin. Evening: dinner and squad discussion.

Friday (March 1): Squad training at Blackrock College. Afternoon: reasonably free. Some players go to watch Ireland v England B game, others catch up on work commitments. I make some office phonecalls.

Saturday: Glory, glory: Capture the triple crown. Celebrate in real style.

Sunday: Morning flight to Heathrow.

Tuesday: Full day at the office. Evening: Club training session preparing for league game against Bath. I ask you, a critical game with Bath sandwiched between two international matches! Just the thing to keep me on my toes.

Saturday: Travel to Bath for league game. Pick up two points when it looked as if we had blown it by letting in Richard Hill for a late try. After match, travel directly to England squad headquarters hotel in Richmond to room with . . . Richard Hill. Attend team discussion.

Sunday: Video analysis of game against Ireland. Squad training session at the Stoop.

Tuesday: Evening: Wasps club training session.

Yesterday: Evening: Report to the Stoop for England squad training session. Settle into hotel headquarters.

Today: 9am: Training session, video nasties, tactical talk.

Tomorrow: Early training at the Stoop.

Saturday: Championship decider.

Sunday: Go home happy, or have to explain to my wife, Sara, and eight-month-old daughter, Emily, why all that time away from home did not turn us into champions.

One day, I will have to explain to Emily why anyone privileged to play rugby at this level thinks the sacrifices are worth it. It is sometimes difficult to put into words the buzz a player gets when he pulls on his country's jersey. Thank goodness most of us have understanding and supportive wives.

Whatever the outcome at Twickenham on Saturday, the match is going to be fierce and bruising. France have picked some big, hard men and I don't think there will be any prisoners taken.

We know we must not give the French any room for manoeuvre. They were given a lot of time and space a fortnight ago and the Welsh paid for it.

Psychologically, the England team go into this grand slam match much better prepared than last year. We beat the Irish 23-0, the Welsh 34-6 and the French 26-7, in Paris, last season. Although we tried to guard against complacency against the Scots at Murrayfield, it must have crept into our play.

This year, we have had three difficult matches which have put us in a tougher frame of mind and, crucially, we are going for it at Twickenham with a big crowd behind us. We will not be overconfident but we have not hit top gear yet and, hopefully, Saturday will be the day it happens.

England — and Emily — expects!

RUGBY UNION

White is out as England put shirts on greenbacks

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND supporters must make the most of the traditional all-white strip with black stockings in which England will play France at Twickenham on Saturday: it may be the last occasion on which the team plays a full international at headquarters before the introduction of more colourful apparel.

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) unveiled yesterday the shirt which England will use for the World Cup in November and it is the express intention of Michael Coley, the RFU marketing manager, to press for the same playing gear to be used by the national side in future, with the possibility of review each World Cup year.

However, the departure, for obvious commercial reasons and with the best intention of bringing into the game funds which are escaping it, may offend many purists who have enjoyed the stark simplicity of England's appearance, not to mention former internationals who have worn the white shirt with the red rose against the equally simple but arresting colours of the other home unions and the biggest overseas unions.

The RFU has agreed a four-year contract with Cotton Traders, the leisurewear company based in Altrincham and run by three former England captains, Fran Cotton, Steve Smith and Tony Neary, all of whom played in the last England grand slam side of 1980. Cotton estimated that the contract would be worth around £5 million to £6 million, of which the union will receive a guaranteed minimum — though Coley hopes to see about £250,000 come to the RFU over the first year of the contract.

The new shirt, whose first appearance will be against New Zealand on October 3, remains predominantly white but incorporates blue collar and cuffs, red-and-blue stripes on the upper right arm, with the rose and England logo on breast and shorts. Each shirt will be personalised, either by the attachment of the player's name or number to the sleeve.

The same company has designed a change jersey (as required by World Cup regulations) which has a navy top above red-and-white hoops, with navy shorts.

Coley said the amount of change was necessary so that the RFU could register the design as its own trademark and therefore avoid pirating. Hitherto any company has been free to make and market all-white shirts with a rose. "We insist upon the highest possible quality of the product sold under the RFU aegis," Coley said. "For a number of years manufacturers have produced jerseys and put nothing back into the union coffers."

So far the RFU committee has granted permission for the new shirt to be used only in the World Cup; the design accepted had to maintain the tradition of the England jersey, be aesthetically pleasing to the RFU committee, players and the general public, and be sufficiently different to find acceptance in the eyes of the Trade Marks Registry.

MARC ASPLAND

Flying doctors: St Mary's, in dark shirts, take the aerial initiative and the cup at London Welsh yesterday

Forwards carry St Mary's to fifth successive victory

By GORDON ALLEN

St Mary's 15
The London 8

ST MARY'S won the Hospitals Cup for the fifth consecutive year when they beat The London by a goal and three penalty goals to two tries at Old Deer Park yesterday. It was St Mary's thirtieth success in this competition, equalling the record held by Guys.

It was a victory of functional rugby over the fluid kind, of the kickers over the runners, in conditions suited to the latter. St Mary's main strength was in their forwards and they played to it, rarely passing the ball beyond half back. The London did well at the lineouts through Cruickshank, their captain, and to a lesser extent in the mauls, but were in serious difficulties in the tight.

Even more important Butland put over four out of six goals for St Mary's while Martin missed all four kicks he was given for The London. The St Mary's defence took a roasting in the second half, which The London dominated territorially, before making the game safe with two penalties, for offside in the loose, in the last 15 minutes.

Davies scored the St Mary's try soon after the start when Simmons was harassed at a retreating scrum and Abrams made a break into The London 22. Butland converted from near touch.

Almost at once Hamilton took a pass from Simmons on the blindside of a maul and ran in The London's first try without a hand being laid on him. Hamilton was one of four London players who appeared in the 1986 final — the last time St Mary's were beaten in the cup. Butland, with a penalty, made it 9-4 by the interval.

Moving the ball wide whenever they could, with Hall twice breaking out of deep defence on the opposite wing from his own, The London carried the game to St Mary's in a pulsating second half. It was Hall who scored when Jones picked up on the fringe of a ruck, dodged through, and sent in the winger at the corner.

Just before this Martin had missed a penalty in front of the posts. Butland had two similar chances in the last quarter and slotted both comfortably. St Mary's have never had to work harder for the cup.

SCORERS: St Mary's: Try: Davies. Conversion: Butland. Penalties: Butland (3). The London: Tries: Hamilton, Hall.

ST MARY'S HOSPITAL: T Poole; D Abrams, R Windle, A Field, A Morgan; R Butland, C Wright; A Ellery, L O'Hara, N Hunt, G Torkington, P Tooze-Hobson, P Mitchell, M Davies, S Kelly.

THE LONDON HOSPITAL: A Carroll; G Hall, G Soborg, M Windle, I Hamilton; C Jones, P Simmons; R Baker, C Mann, S Curry, A Martin, P Barnes, A Cruickshank, P Moore, S Slack.

Referee: P Wakefield (London).

☐ The Wales centre, Scott Gibbs, who injured his back playing against France, is out of the Neath side to meet Cardiff, on Saturday, in the quarter-finals of the Schweppes Cup.

A running game pays dividends

By MICHAEL STEVENSON

Newcastle Polytechnic 20
Oxford Polytechnic 9

THE final of the Polytechnics Cup, held at Fylde yesterday, provided an enthralling tussle, largely between the Oxford pack and the Newcastle backs, victory deservedly going to Newcastle by a goal, two tries, a dropped goal and a penalty goal to three penalty goals.

Oxford were well on top in the set pieces but outside the scrum there was no comparison.

A great break by the speedy Scott threatened to give Newcastle a flying start but he was sunk by the cover and soon afterwards had to go off with an ankle injury.

Oxford led when Alp kicked the first of his three penalties before Martin, Newcastle's outstanding forward, went off with a shoulder injury. But Newcastle then took the lead when Owen drove to the line and slipped the ball to Ayton, who scored. A deft dropped goal early in the second half by the classy McCreath stretched the advantage before Alp's second penalty put Oxford back in touch.

As the second half developed it was clear that Newcastle were the stronger. Penn scored an excellent try, engineered by Burnett, and McCreath contributed a well-struck penalty goal.

Oxford pulled back through Alp's third penalty but, trying to run everything, they allowed Harries to intercept on the line. He scored and McCreath converted.

SCORERS: Newcastle: Tries: Ayton, Penn, Harries. Conversion: McCreath. Dropped goal: McCreath. Penalty goal: McCreath. Oxford: Penalty goals: Alp (3).

NEWCASTLE POLYTECHNIC: R Gardiner; R Allen, R Harries, A Scott (rep: P Balderson), T Penn; T McCreath, K Burnett; C Heseltine, D Hayes, R Hall, J Ayton, F Mitchell, S Gibbs, D Martin (rep: T Golding), S Owen.

OXFORD POLYTECHNIC: P Grindall; M Bennett, D Calcatera, T Ellis, L Jebb; G Alp, W Davidson; A Darrach-Warren, D Stork, A Williams, P Woodward, D Edmunson, R Horne, M Reeve, B Winning.

Referee: K Lee (Liverpool and District).

Your seat at world theatre of rugby

Rank Hotels

THE Times today presents the first part of a three-day competition offering seven special visits to one of the great events of international sport this year, the Rugby Union World Cup, including the final at Twickenham on November 2.

For this competition, we have linked with Rank Hotels, the official World Cup hotel group, whose five luxury hotels in London include the Royal Garden, the headquarters of the World Cup, and the home of senior officials and distinguished visitors throughout the tournament.

The first prize is a visit for two people to the World Cup final, with first-class rail travel to and from London and accommodation at the Royal Garden Hotel on the night on November 2.

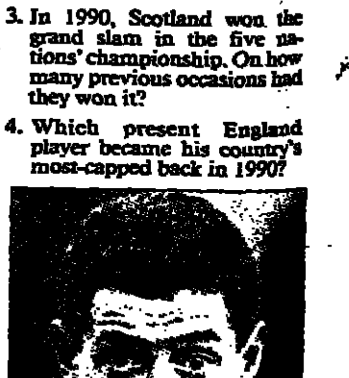
There are three second prizes: each a visit for two people to the Wales v Australia match at Cardiff Arms Park on October 12, with first-class rail travel to and from Cardiff and accommodation at Rank's new Celtic Bay Hotel.

There are three third prizes: each a visit for two people to the England v United States match at Twickenham on October 11, again with first-class rail travel to and from London and accommodation at the Royal Garden.

The Times will be publishing five questions — all related to major rugby union achievements — each day, today, tomorrow and on Saturday. Full instructions on where to send your entry will be published on Saturday.

THE QUESTIONS

1. Who scored the most dropped goals in the 1987 World Cup finals in Australia and New Zealand?
2. Which was the highest-placed of the four home unions in the inaugural World Cup?
3. In 1990, Scotland won the grand slam in the five nations' championship. On how many previous occasions had they won it?
4. Which present England player became his country's most-capped back in 1990?



5. Who were Scotland's opponents when Gavin Hastings (above) made his senior international debut?

ANSWERS

1 ....

2 ....

3 ....

4 ....

5 ....

Save this coupon to attach it to the final entry form, which will be published on Saturday.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Employees (and their relatives) of Times Newspapers Ltd, Rank Hotels and their agents are not eligible for entry. The Editor's decision is final; no correspondence.

SNOOKER

Thorburn revives old ways

From STEVE ACTESON IN ROTTERDAM

CLIFF Thorburn has resolved to adopt a harder approach than ever before. Crowned world champion in 1980 and ranked second in the world in the early years of that decade Thorburn has fallen to a provisional 48th in the rankings for next season and has decided the time has come to think about himself rather than what others think of him.

Thorburn is nicknamed "the grinder" on the snooker circuit for his approach, yet he is also a fine break builder. He remains the only player to make a maximum 147 break in the world championship.

Tonight, at the European Open in Rotterdam, Thorburn plays Neal Foulds in only his second ranking tournament quarter-final in two years, having rekindled memories of his old, tough approach in defeating Steve Davis 5-4 in the opening round. "I can count on the fingers of one hand the times that I've beaten Steve and to do it over six hours and maintain my concentration proves to me that I'm mentally and physically stronger than I have been for a long time, but I'm going to get harder still," Thorburn said.

"I've had two bone-shaking years and I'll win anyway I have to. I can't believe that I was actually looking at my watch during matches worrying that people would be saying I was playing slowly again. I'm not going to worry about stuff like that any more."

RESULTS: Fifth round (late Tuesday): N Foulds (Eng) bt K Doherty (Rep of Ire), 5-3. Frame scores (Foulds first): 60-13, 63-70, 88-83, 42-83, 33-89, 71-7, 63-23. D O'Kane (NZ) beat D Reynolds (Eng), 5-4. Frame scores (O'Kane first): 16-71, 61-44, 22-74, 71-74, 81-42, 75-8, 74-33, 24-66, 74-9.

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BASKETBALL

Cadle seeks big effort by Kingston

EVEN by his own indefatigable demands, Kevin Cadle, the Kingston coach, will be asking a lot of his players over the next few days (Nicholas Harling writes).

The crucial European Cup tie tonight against the Italian champions, at Pesaro, is followed by a road trip through the night from the Adriatic Coast to Milan for an early morning flight to get back in time for the Carlsberg League visit to Hemel Hempstead on Friday.

That is followed, on Saturday, by the final league fixture of the season, at home to Derby. It is hardly surprising that Cadle has dispensed with training on the day before games. With memories of how long it took his players to recover from their three-point home defeat by Split, in December, Cadle said yesterday: "We are trying to keep as fresh as we can."

For only the second time in his club's final pool games, Cadle has a full squad to take with him to the continent.

Cadle knows that if Kingston repeat the five-point home win achieved over Pesaro at Crystal Palace eight weeks ago, they can still reach the last four in Paris next month."

HOCKEY

Skilful attack sinks Navy

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

Royal Navy 1
Civil Service 5

CIVIL Service made short work of the Royal Navy at Basingstoke yesterday to achieve their second victory of the series against the armed forces. Earlier in the season they had beaten the Royal Air Force.

The Navy, having at first been bemused by the skilful play of the Civil Service forwards and half backs, settled down to a more effective pattern; but by then, they had given too much away.

Within 18 minutes, Civil Service established a 3-0 lead. Craddock's goal from a short corner in the ninth minute was followed by two from open play by Harjeet Chana and Eves. The chances were set up by Hannon and Brown, respectively.

The Navy's forward play had earlier broken down for the want of support. However in the nineteenth minute they hit back, with Warrender following up to score after Allkins had saved from Mitchell.

Despite the hard work by Mitchell, Watson and Moseley, the Navy were in trouble at the back and in the 24th minute conceded another short corner, which Craddock converted.

In the 67th minute, after Vickery had broken through, the Navy conceded a penalty stroke for obstruction and Moreton converted to send Civil Service in to their last match of the series, against the Army at Aldershot today, in good heart.

Royal Navy: L/Cpl A Thomson (Royal Marines); Lt I Bisson, Sub/Lt S Ward, Lt K Tremble, P/O M Ardagh (sub: P/O L Hammond), P/O S Mitchell, CPO G Mather (capt), Wtr L Watson, AEM J Moseley, LEM T Spinks, Sub/Lt W Warrender.

Civil Service: C Allkins (St Albans); M Williams (Cardiff, capt), S Moreton (Firebrands), A Craddock (Cannock), Kalwinder Henspal (Indian Gymkhana), M Hannon (Swansea), N D'Cruz (Lyons), N Eves (Gore Court), E Vickery (Old Kingstonians), Harjeet Chana (Lyons), S Brown (Springfields).

Umpires: T Norwood (Scotland) and S Wilkins (Southern Counties).

ICE HOCKEY

Bold Barons salvage their season

SOLIHULL Barons, with a win over Cleveland Bombers, completed a recovery of Sheffield United-sized proportions to gain the eighth and final Heineken Championship play-off place (Norman de Mesquita writes).

By mid-January, they had won only four of 21 premier division games, but have since won eight out of 11. They could yet cause some upsets.

The only unresolved decision in the premier division is who will finish second. Murrayfield Racers, Cardiff Devils and Peterborough Pirates all have 40 points with two games to play.

RESULTS: Heineken League: Premier division: Cardiff Devils 9, Cleveland Bombers 6; Nottingham Panthers 6, Whitley Warriors 3; Peterborough Pirates 5, Durham Wasps 3; Cardiff Devils 7, Solihull Barons 12; [illegible] Bombers 8, Whitley Warriors [illegible]; Peterborough Pirates [illegible]. First division: Basingstoke Beavers 6, Medway Bears 8; Telford Tigers 7, Humberside Seahawks [illegible]; Trafford Metros 6, Slough Jets 10; Lee Valley Lions [illegible], Swindon Wildcats [illegible]; [illegible] Lions 4; Medway Bears 6, Slough Jets [illegible]; Humberside Seahawks 5, Lee Valley [illegible]; Romford Raiders 4, Bracknell Bees 7; Trafford Metros 5, Telford Tigers 10.

FOOTBALL

Two men who can see management in true perspective

By Louise Taylor

HARRY Redknapp and Ian Porterfield, the managers of Bournemouth and Reading, have more in common than the pursuit of promotion from the third division. They also share memories of long struggles to recover from horrendous road accidents.

A matter of months after scoring the winning goal for Sunderland against Leeds United in the 1973 FA Cup final, Porterfield was fighting for his life after sustaining serious head injuries. He eventually returned to the Sunderland midfield, before continuing his playing career at Sheffield Wednesday.

Subsequently the Scot, who is now 42 and a father of five, moved into management with Rotherham, Sheffield United, and Aberdeen. More recently he was assistant to Bobby Campbell at Chelsea, before taking charge at Reading in November 1989.

Fifteen years on from his accident, Porterfield appeared a picture of health, as he reacted philosophically to Tuesday night's 2-0 defeat by Bournemouth at Dean Court.

Redknapp is still recovering from an accident during the World Cup in Italy last summer in which Brian Tiler, the managing director of Bournemouth and a close friend, was killed. It left Redknapp in intensive care. So severe were his injuries that, when he resumed his managerial duties last autumn, doctors advised the former West Ham United player that heading a ball could kill him.

At the time the man known simply as "H" vowed not to allow his involvement in football to be as all-consuming as before. But six months on, friends say that, if anything, he is more caught up than ever in the treadmill of training and scouting. Nevertheless, their brushes with death mean that, unlike Bill Shankly, Redknapp and Porterfield have football in context. "I realise that there are other, more important, things in life," Redknapp said.

Porterfield believes that his experience has had a positive effect. "I think that having to fight for my life has given me more resilience and determination to keep going. The strange thing is that when I lived in south Yorkshire, Brian Tiler was a neighbour of mine. I wrote Harry a note at the start of the season and it is good to see him back."

Redknapp's return to his office coincided with a revival in the side's fortunes, and Tuesday's win leaves Bournemouth, relegated last season, in sixth place and in strong contention for at least a play-off place.

Redknapp's son, Jamie, a *17-year-old midfield prodigy*, has been signed by Liverpool and a great future is forecast for him. Well schooled in the traditions of the West Ham academy, Jamie plays the way his father preaches. Redknapp insists that the ball travels through the midfield, and along the ground.

Porterfield, widely regarded as one of the game's better tacticians, is also no exponent of the long ball, and Tuesday's match proved surprisingly sophisticated.

Reading remain five places and five points behind Bournemouth, but, significantly, have two games in hand. Wembley will be in for a treat if the pair should meet in the play-offs, for a match, their managers at least, will surely regard as a bonus.

Palmer strikes in the nick of time

OLDHAM Athletic were fortunate to secure the point that kept them ahead of West Ham United at the top of the second division on Tuesday night (Louise Taylor writes). Away at Swindon Town, they were losing 2-1 and had survived two penalty appeals, when, in the 83rd minute, Roger Palmer headed the 150th goal of his career to level the scores.

As Joe Royle, the relieved Oldham manager, said afterwards: "Roger has one trick and it generally ends with the opposition having to take a kick-off."

After a disappointing first half the second served up four goals. Ritchie scored for Oldham only for Shearer to equalise a minute later, before Calderwood gave Swindon the lead.

Middlesbrough's hopes of overhauling Sheffield Wednesday, in the third promotion position, were bolstered by their 3-0 derby win against Newcastle United at Ayresome Park. Slaven (with two) and Walsh scored the goals which take them to within two points of Wednesday, but United, who have failed to win a fixture on Teesside since Boxing Day 1964, will have to improve to entertain even an outside chance of qualifying for the play-offs.

Steve Bull prompted seven saves from Bob Bolder, the Charlton Athletic goalkeeper, at Selhurst Park, but still finished up on the losing side, as Wolverhampton Wanderers went down 1-0 to a goal by Kim Grant, the 18-year-old substitute.

Watford are bottom of the second division and Hull City in the penultimate position after a *1-1 draw at Boothferry Park*, while, in the third division, Southend United recorded their tenth away win of the season, beating Swansea City 4-1 away to stay top.

Grimsby Town reinforced their promotion chances with a 4-1 win at Rotherham, the bottom club, which moved them into second place, above Bolton Wanderers, whose 23-match unbeaten run ended with a 4-0 defeat at Mansfield Town.

Cambridge United consoled themselves for last Saturday's FA Cup exit at Arsenal with a 3-0 win at Leyton Orient.

Burrows out of job again

FRANK Burrows yesterday left Portsmouth by "mutual consent" after a meeting with Jim Gregory, the club chairman. It is the second time that Burrows has stepped down as manager of the south coast side, which is presently sixth from bottom of the second division.

It is only 14 months since Burrows returned to Fratton Park, and promptly saved Portsmouth from relegation to the third division. Aged 47, and formerly in charge of Cardiff City, Burrows was manager of Portsmouth between *1979 and 1982*, when he steered the club out of the fourth division, before being dismissed by John Deacon, its former owner.

Gregory has now parted company with three managers — Alan Ball, John Gregory, and Burrows — in less than three years since he became chairman and owner of Portsmouth.

Despite playing some attractive football, and almost knocking Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur out of the Rumbelows and FA cups respectively, Portsmouth have struggled in the second division, losing 16 of this season's 34 League games.

ICE SKATING

Petrenko perfectly placed

From John Hennessy in Munich

A COMMANDING performance by Viktor Petrenko, of the Soviet Union, dominated the second day of the European championship. He won the original programme section from Kurt Browning, of Canada, the holder of the men's title, with Petr Barna, of Czechoslovakia, in third place.

Petrenko takes a lead of half a point over Browning but, since the free skating is worth a full point, it is now a matter of which of the two prevails tonight — always assuming neither Barna or any other skater gets in the way.

Petrenko opened with a soaring triple axel in combination with a triple toe loop, both of superlative quality, and was inspired into transferring the haughty arrogance of his Spanish music into his performance. It was stunning stuff which evoked rapturous applause from the audience.

Technically, Browning did all that was expected of him, with a similar combination, but, overall, he lacked the polish and refined style of his principle challenger. Two judges still placed him first — an accolade diluted by the fact that both came from North America, one of them from Canada.

Barna brought the curtain down at the end of the afternoon with a performance which produced a 6-0 for presentation from the Hungarian judge. His was a less difficult programme than some others but, as usual, he skated it beautifully.

Steven Cousins, the British champion, narrowly survived the first hurdle by securing eighteenth place. Only the leading 20 are allowed to skate in the finals.

He could not satisfactorily complete the combination jump because of a faulty triple lutz, and also lost his way in a spin combination.

RESULTS: Men's original programme: 1, V Petrenko (USSR), 0.5 factored placements; 2, K Browning (Can), 1.0; 3, P Barna (Cz), 1.5; 4, C Bowman (US), 2.0; 5, T Eldredge (US), 2.5; 6, A Urmanov (USSR), 3.0; 7, E Stojko (Can), 3.5; 8, M Slipchuk (Can), 4.0; 9, E Millot (Fr), 4.5; 10, M Kagiyama (Japan), 5.0. British: 18, S Cousins, 9.0. Pairs original programme: 1, I Brasseur and L Eisler (Can), 0.5; 2, N Mishkutenok and A Dmitriev (USSR), 1.0; 3, E Bechke and D Petrov (USSR), 1.5; 4, N Kuchiki and T Sand (US), 2.0; 5, R Kovarikova and R Novotny (Cz), 2.5; 6, P Schwarz and A Koenig (Ger), 3.0; 7, E Shishkova and V Naumov (USSR), 3.5; 8, S Ball and J Bombadier (Can), 4.0; 9, C Urbanski and R Marval (US), 4.5; 10, C Hough and D Ladret (Can), 5.0. British: 13, C Peake and A Naylor, 6.5.

A man who walks before he runs

DAVID BURGESS

Leader of the troop: Easterby recalls a childhood measured out in hospitals

All for the breath of life

By Michael Coleman

WALKING is probably the most undervalued training aid for a marathon. When you consider that 20,000 of the competitors in next month's London Marathon would be outpaced by top race-walkers, none of whom run when training, jolly old heel and toe seems worth reconsidering. A long Sunday walk was always a must for Sydney Wooderson.

Ernest Easterby has packed many miles of walking into his marathon preparation. He is a scout leader from Wickford, Essex and Sixth Laindon, his troop, have won the Essex Way 62-mile walk five times since 1983. It takes them about 16 hours.

Two weeks ago they took part in the Southern 50-mile challenge at *Reading*, the route of which, like most scout walks, is alongside fields and on footpaths and rarely encounters a road. One hundred teams of four took part. Sixth Laindon chose to start at 7.30am and 13 hours later came in with the fifth fastest time.

And much time for thought, apparently. "We try to keep quiet while walking in the daylight," Easterby said. "It's advisable to save the gossip until later, when your morale needs a boost."

Easterby, who is 48, must often recall his childhood when he could only walk a few yards. An asthma sufferer, he was wheeled everywhere and spent his childhood in a dozen hospitals. He was for three years at St Catherine's, *Isle of Wight* and for two years in a sanatorium in Davos, Switzerland.

"My life was measured in the names of hospitals," he said. "From the age of two I had asthma. I was surrounded by air and couldn't breathe. It is difficult to explain the panic and terror as you struggle for air but I know that feeling. I've been there."

Undaunted, Easterby has survived, thanks to treatment, his willpower and his inhaler. "I start to deteriorate if I don't take it," he said.

Eight years ago, to keep fit for his walking exploits, Easterby also took up running. "Steady running, nothing exceptional. I just enjoy being able to do it."

He has completed six marathons, invariably in support of a worthy cause, at an average 3hr 56min, a solid, midfield jogger's pace which compares with the 3hr 15min a top-flight race walker, such as Chris Maddocks, would take.

This year Easterby, who is married and has two children, both asthma-free, lines up for the London race on April 21 as one of *The Times*/Unisys team of fund runners. Not surprisingly, his cause this time is the National Asthma Campaign.

"Child asthma is on the increase and showing that this illness can be overcome is important," he said. "For a child it is a very frightening and debilitating illness."

The Times and Unisys — the official ADT London Marathon computer service — hope that by featuring the efforts of our team of fund runners we will help them find sponsorship. If you wish to support one or more of them, write clearly, stating your beneficiaries, to: *The Times*/Unisys London Marathon Appeal, Sports Department, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We will send on your donations.

Unisys is offering a Unisys personal computer to the biggest fund-raiser and a jeroboam and magnum of champagne to the second and third respectively.

THE TIMES
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GOLF

Sting in the tail may be enough to lift Ballesteros

From Mel Webb
in Tarragona

THERE really seems no end to the amount of hot air that people are prepared to expend in the promotion of their particular line of business. Take Robert Trent Jones Jr, for example, talking about the Bonmont Terres Noves course on which the Catalan Open starts near here today.

"Like an Athenian demi-god, the course is animated," he writes in description of his creation. "It seductively beckons of every level of expertise: 'Come and play me! Discover my lines and edges!' "

He did not add, but might well have done, "and contact Pseuds Corner for me. I've got an absolute corker for them."

To be sure, the course is a luscious if still slightly immature testament to the Trent Jones dynasty, and few would deny it. The wind, blowing a ruddy tan into players' cheeks in the pro-am yesterday, will play its part, and it will be a surprise if anybody truly conquers its 7,050 yards in the next four days.

Push will, though, eventually come to shove; it always does. And when that happens it is the players who will make or mar this week 100 or so miles down the Catalonian coast from Barcelona.

Take, for example, Severiano Ballesteros. A few years ago he was the best golfer in the world. Now he is not even the best golfer in Spain, if recent history is to be believed.

Ballesteros had a rough year in 1990 and was overtaken by José-Maria Olazábal, his young compatriot. Sad to say, this season has started no more auspiciously. He had three disastrous rounds in the Balearic Open last week only to redeem himself partly with a 68, best of the day, when playing with a marker in the last round. Perhaps that is the answer. Perhaps he just does not like playing when accompanied by another proper golfer.

Certainly the great Spaniard is an occasionally solitary figure, set apart from ordinary mortals by a air of distraction to which he has become increasingly prone lately.

Be that as it may, the fact is that Ballesteros is worried enough about his game to be playing his second week running on the Volvo Tour without drawing a peseta in appearance money. He played for nothing in Majorca, when his own promotions company ran the show, and he is doing so again this week in a tournament in which Olazábal, the charming upstart who has whipped the crown of Spanish golf off Ballesteros's head, has a 40 per cent slice of the action.

Ballesteros was frank to a fault about his golf yesterday. "Maybe I was trying to hit the ball too hard," he said. "Also I was strangling the club, holding it too tight."

And then came the sting in the tail, a sting that might yet confound the armchair critics who are even to be seen in the lush surroundings of the Bonmont club. "This week I feel much better," he said with a small edge of menace in his voice. "My game is good. I have not found the secret. There is no secret, but I feel more fluent."

A powerful field has assembled here to play in a tournament worth £300,000. Olazábal, Rafferty, Romero, Torrance, Singh, Brand Jr and a few other luminaries will try their damnedest this week. If they are all eventually beaten by the second-best golfer in Spain, or even the "lines and edges," none of them will be able to claim that he had not been warned.

Card of the course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	525	5	10	352	4
2	379	4	11	410	4
3	443	4	12	471	4
4	405	4	13	211	3
5	183	3	14	507	5
6	474	4	15	318	4
7	548	5	16	187	3
8	213	3	17	569	5
9	435	4	18	420	4
Out	3,605	36	In	3,445	36
Total yardage: 7,050				Par: 72	

Faldo starts his quest

A STRONGER, fitter, and definitely bigger-looking Nick Faldo will make his first tournament appearance of the new season in Arnold Palmer's Nestle Invitation tournament, which begins today at the Bay Hill course in Orlando, Florida (a Special Correspondent writes).

Faldo is a popular figure in the United States and there have been many comments made about his "new" appearance.

"It's muscle, not fat," Faldo said, admitting to having put on 20lbs. "I have been body-building for nearly a year. I am not looking for more length but I want to be stronger so I don't wear down over the long season.

"Last week my coach, David Leadbetter, worked on my leg action," Faldo said. "The season's goal is obviously the grand slam. The odds against it are enormous."

SPORTS POLITICS

National bodies look for Budget handout

By John Goodbody

BRITISH sports administrators are "optimistic but not overconfident" that in the Budget next week the government will abolish corporation tax on the finances of the national governing bodies. There has been intensive lobbying by leading officials to persuade Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer to grant this concession, which would cost the Treasury less than £10 million a year.

On Tuesday, the spectator sports division of the Central Council of Physical Recreation heard a report from Peter Lawson, the secretary, on the meetings with three government departments the Treasury, the Home Office and the Minister for Sport's office. The tax annually costs the Lawn Tennis Association £1.25 million, the Rugby Football Union £500,000 and the British Olympic Association, from its quadrennial appeal, £750,000.

Lawson said: "As far as the government is concerned the tax is containable because you cannot multiply the amount. It is also cheap. It would be a boost to the morale of thousands of people involved in sport because the savings would filter down to them.

He added that if it had not been for the Gulf war and its effect on the *Budget* he would be even more confident that the government would make this concession.

It has been stressed that the proposal would only apply to national governing bodies and not to clubs and that the governing bodies would not be seeking to acquire charitable status, which could give them exemption from tax.

Another Budget possibility is for the government to set up a national lottery to help fund the arts, sport and the environment. As it seems certain European lotteries will be able to sell tickets in Britain after 1992, there is pressure on the government to act.

IN BRIEF

Early SA return

SOUTH Africa is likely to compete in next year's Barcelona Olympics, Sam Ramsamy, the leading anti-apartheid campaigner, said yesterday.

"I think there will be a South African presence in Barcelona. It seems highly probable," he said.

SWIMMING: Joanne Deakins, of Gloucester, broke her own British short-course record in the 200 metres backstroke at the World Cup in Milan, Italy, last night.

TENNIS: James Turner beat Nicola Bruno, the top-seeded Italian, 7-6, 5-7, 6-4, to reach the semi-finals of the Serve and Volley Masters men's satellite tournament at Manchester.

MOTOR SPORT: Andrew Street, from Worcestershire, Timothy Dray, from South Humberside, David Harrison, from Scotland, and Timothy Postgate, from Essex, went through to the final selection for the British team for the Camel Trophy after a four-day trial at Maiden Bradley in Wiltshire.

CYCLING: Paul Rogers, of Portsmouth, will lead Britain's team in the Northern Ireland Milk Race from April 2 to 6.

SPEEDWAY: The world governing body, the FIM, has set up a working party to look into the launch of a worldwide grand prix series.

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

YONEX ALL-ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS: Men: First round: Kim Hak Kyun (Kor) bt S Pandya (Eng), 15-8, 15-0; M Frost (Den) bt K Harrison (NZ), 15-3, 15-8; Foo Kok Keong (Malaysia) bt M Sogaard (Den), 15-11, 15-10; H Susanto (Indo) bt P Sheppard (Eng), 15-7, 15-7; J-P Nierhoff (Den) bt J Tuvesson (Swe), 15-3, 15-12; Chen Rong (China) bt C Bruil (Neth), 15-5, 15-10; Ahn Jae Chang (Kor) wo P Pakupesty (Neth), scr; S Nielsen (Den) bt J Melbom (Den), 18-14, 15-10; A Antropov (USSR) bt T Kirkegaard (Den), 15-13, 15-10; J van Dijk (Neth) bt J Miller (Scot), 15-12, 15-2; C Thomsen (Den) bt P Jantti (Fin), 15-10, 15-7; P Espersen (Den) bt V Kumar (India), 15-12, 15-1; C Overbeek (Den) bt N Panesar (Eng), 15-6, 15-6; A Kusuma (Indo) bt J Sorensen (Den), 15-7, 15-2; M Smith (Eng) bt I Sydie (Can), 15-8, 15-3; K Scott (Scot) wo C Jogis (US), scr; P Bush (Eng) bt Wei Yan (Aus), 15-10, 10-15, 15-13; P-E Hoyer-Larsen (Den) bt B Kristjansson (Ice), 15-6, 15-10; E Kurniawan (Indo) bt M Hummelmose (Den), 15-8, 15-10; S Butler (Eng) bt Kwan Yoke Meng (Malaysia), 15-10, 11-15, 17-14; Lee Kwang-Jin (Kor) bt J Hamgaard (Swe), 9-15, 15-7, 15-8; Wu Wen Kai (China) bt I Frederiksen (Den), 15-8, 15-4; T Carlsen (Den) bt P Knowles (Eng), 15-4, 15-8; T Stuer-Lauridsen (Den) bt A Nielsen (Eng), 12-8, ret; Zhao Jianhua (China) bt S Kusmidi (Thai), 17-14, 15-9; J Suprianto (India) bt J Olsson (Swe), 15-9, 15-9; F Permadi (India) bt H Sperre (Nor), 15-7, 15-12; D Hall (Eng) bt H Motoyama (Japan), 15-6, 15-2; H Eboh (Japan) bt J Dawson (Can), 15-12, 15-7; R Sidek (Malaysia) bt P Axelsson (Swe), 15-8, 15-1; K Weede Hansen (Den) bt P Smith (Eng), 15-9, 15-6; A Wiranata (India) bt Liu Jun (China), 14-17, 15-4, 15-12. Women: First round: R Robertson (NZ) wo M Mork (Den), scr; H Kouhara (Japan) bt V Chernyavskaya (USSR), 11-2, 12-9; J Bradbury (Eng) bt B Hindse (Den), 11-7, 10-12, 11-4; D Piche (Can) wo S Gallup (Eng), scr; D Julien (Can) bt S Hore (Eng), 11-7, 11-3; Gil Young-Ah (Kor) bt K Kanai (Japan), 11-3, 11-8; C Magnusson (Swe) bt H Andersen (Den), 11-5, 11-2; E Coene (Neth) bt A Humby (Eng), 11-8, 11-1; Shim Eun-Jung (Kor) bt A Gibson (Scot), 11-4, 11-1; N Ivanova (USSR) bt S Louis (Eng), 11-7, 12-10; S Jaroensiri (Thai) bt H Mizui (Japan), 11-4, 11-3; A van der Knaap (Neth) bt H Kroegaard (Den), 11-6, 12-9; E van der Heuvel (Neth) bt H Yachi (Japan), 11-8, 10-12, 11-0; E Rybkina (USSR) bt T Dineen (Eng), 11-5, 11-3; J Muggeridge (Eng) bt C Bengtsson (Swe), 11-8, 2-11, 11-4; Bang Soo-Hyun (Kor) bt R Cator (Aus), 11-7, 11-2.

TABLE TENNIS

EUROPEAN SUPER LEAGUE: Women: Poland bt Czechoslovakia, 4-3.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Washington Bullets 103, Charlotte Hornets 100; Los Angeles Lakers 102, Miami Heat 95; Philadelphia 76ers 133, Atlanta Hawks 129 (2 OT); Chicago Bulls 131, Minnesota Timberwolves 99; Houston Rockets 93, Seattle Supersonics 91; Los Angeles Clippers 125, Denver Nuggets 123; Golden State Warriors 129, Indiana Pacers 117; Boston Celtics 110, Sacramento Kings 95.

BOXING

MANSFIELD: Professional promotion: European cruiserweight championship (12 rnds): Johnny Nelson (Sheffield, holder) bt Yves Monsieur (Bel), rsc 8th rnd. Super-feather (6 rnds): Lee Fox (Chesterfield) bt Charlie Cole (Balham), pts. Light-welter (6 rnds): Wayne Windle (Sheffield) ko Mark Anthony (Doncaster), 1st rnd. Light-middle (8 rnds): Paul Jones (Sheffield) bt Tony Velinor (Stratford), pts. Super-middle (6 rnds): Graham Burton (Sheffield) bt Peter Gorney (Sutton), pts.

CURLING

GLASGOW: Royal Bank of Scotland world junior championships: Men: Fifth round: Canada bt United States, 8-3; Switzerland bt Italy, 8-3; Norway bt France, 5-4; Scotland bt Germany, 10-5; Denmark bt Sweden, 3-2. Sixth round: Scotland bt Sweden, 8-3; Germany bt France, 7-4; Switzerland bt Denmark, 7-1; Canada bt Italy, 8-1; United States bt Norway, 9-4. Women: Fifth round: Canada bt United States, 9-4; Switzerland bt Italy, 11-1; Scotland bt Germany, 9-4; France bt Norway, 9-0; Sweden bt Denmark, 8-6.

CYCLING

PARIS TO NICE RACE: Fourth stage (167km): 1, V Ekimov (USSR), 4hr 23min 34sec; 2, R Harmeling (Neth), at 9sec; 3, G Fidanza (It), at 22; 4, J Museeuw (Bel); 5, M Vermote (Bel); 6, L Jalabert (Fr); 7, M Gayant (Fr); 8, C Capelle (Fr); 9, J-C Colotti (Fr); 10, S Bauer (Can), all same time. Overall: 1, A Rominger (Switz), [illegible] 48min 28sec; 2, C Chaubet (Fr), at 4sec; 3, P Lance (Fr), same time; 4, Jalabert, at 15; 5, P Louviot (Fr), at 18; 6, Gayant, at 20; 7, T Marie (Fr), at 1min 07sec; 8, B Fischer (Fr), at 1:14; 9, L Fignon (Fr), at 1:17; 10, J-C Bagot (Fr), at 1:22.

HOCKEY

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Bishop's Stortford College 5, Hitchin 2; Felsted 3, Perse 2.

FOOTBALL

NORTH AMERICAN NATIONS CUP: United States 2, Mexico 2.

MID-ULSTER CUP: Quarter-final: Glenavon 3, Newry Town 1.

BRITISH POLICE CUP: Quarter-final: RUC 3, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary 2.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Amateur Alliance 2, London University 0 (at Walthamstow).

Late results on Tuesday

BARCLAYS LEAGUE: Second division: Blackburn 2, Bristol Rovers 2; Bristol City 1, Leicester City 1; Charlton 1, Wolverhampton Wanderers 0; Hull 1, Watford 1; Middlesbrough 3, Newcastle 0; Notts County 1, Port Vale 1; Portsmouth 0, Millwall 0; Swindon 2, Oldham 2. Third division: Birmingham 2, Fulham 0; Bournemouth 2, Reading 0; Brentford 2, Preston 0; Bury 2, Shrewsbury 1; C'ester 4, Bradford 2; Leyton Orient 0, Cambridge Utd 3; Mansfield 4, Bolton 0; Rotherham 1, Grimsby 4; Swansea 1, Southend 4; Wigan 0, Tranmere 1. Fourth division: Aldershot 1, Hartlepool 5; Blackpool 3, Scarborough 1; Carlisle 0, Gillingham 4; Northampton 0, Burnley 0; Peterborough 2, Darlington 2; Rochdale 0, Cardiff 0; Scunthorpe 1, Walsall 0; Wrexham 1, Halifax 2; York 0, Chesterfield 2. Postponed: Doncaster v Torquay.

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Cheltenham 0, Fisher 0; Colchester 2, Runcorn 2; Kettering 0, Wycombe 1; Slough 3, Welling 0; Stafford 1, Boston Utd 2; Sutton Utd 1, Bath 1. Bob Lord Trophy: Semi-final, first leg: Barrow 2, Kidderminster Harriers 0.

B AND Q SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: St Mirren 0, Celtic 2. First division: Airdrie 0, Partick 0; Clyde 3, Clydebank 1; Forfar 1, Kilmarnock 1. Second division: Alloa 3, East Fife 6; Montrose 2, Stranraer 1.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Liechtenstein 0, Switzerland 6 (in Balzers, Liechtenstein).

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying round: Group six: Netherlands 7, Malta 1 (in Utrecht).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Portadown 4, Ballymena 0.

BASS IRISH CUP: Quarter-final replay: Glentoran 4, Larne 1.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Manchester City 1, Aston Villa 2.

OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: Brighton 3, Wimbledon 1; Chelsea 2, Charlton 0.

VAUXHALL LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury 4, Hayes 0; Basingstoke 2, Bognor Regis 5, Hendon 0, Marlow 2; Leyton-Wingate 1, Harrow 0. First division: Bromley 1, Chalfont St Peter 1; Walton and Hersham 3, Metropolitan Police 0; Whyteleafe 3, Croydon 0; Worthing 0, Tooting and Mitcham 2. Second division north: Basildon 2, Purfleet 2; Billericay 4, Saffron Walden 2; Clapton 1, Collier Row 1; Tilbury 1, Tring 0; Vauxhall Motors 2, Rainham 0; Witham 5, Edgware 2. Second division south: Abingdon Town 0, Malden Vale 0; Bracknell 1, Newbury 3; Harefield 4, Egham 2; Hungerford 4, Camberley 1; Southall 0, Maidenhead United 0. AC Delco Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Woking 2, Dagenham 1. Loctite Cup: Third round: Lewes 0, Chesham 1; Hitchin 1, Wivenhoe 3 (aet).

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Droylsden 4, Goole 2; Witton 4, Gainsborough 0. First division: Eastwood Town 2, Rhyl 2; Harrogate Town 1, Accrington Stanley 2; Irlam 1, Farsley 1; Worksop 0, Radcliffe 0. League Cup: Semi-finals, first legs: Buxton 2, Caernarfon 0; Southport 4, Bangor City 1.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bromsgrove 4, VS Rugby 1; Farnborough 2, Halesowen 1; Gloucester 1, Weymouth 1; Rushden 4, Cambridge City 1. Midland division: Grantham 0, Nuneaton Borough 3; King's Lynn 1, Bedworth 1; Stourbridge 3, Bridgnorth 0; Stroud 0, Corby 2. Southern division: Baldock 2, Erith and Belvedere 3; Hastings 3, Andover 0; Witney 3, Newport (IoW) 2.

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Braintree 1, Brantham 0; Halstead 5, Newmarket 0; Haverhill 3, Histon 0; Tiptree 0, Harwich and Parkeston 4.

ABACUS LEAGUE: National division: Bridgend 0, Abergavenny 3.

BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES: First division: Salford 0, St Helens 5.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Exmouth 1, Saltash 0; Paulton 3, Clevedon 1.

FA YOUTH CUP: Fifth round: Millwall 1, Wimbledon 1.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Auxerre 4, Sochaux 1; Metz 0, Brest 0.

ITALIAN CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Naples 1, Sampdoria 0.

TENNIS

MANCHESTER: Serve and Volley men's satellite tournament: Second round: J Turner (Avon) bt B Botfield (Essex), 6-2, 7-6; T Nydahl (Swe) bt J Larsson (Swe), 6-4, 6-2; L Bale (SA) bt G Schaap (Neth), 6-0, 6-2; N Fulwood (Derbys) bt E Ran (Isr), 6-7, 6-2, 6-2; M Petchey (Essex) bt D Kirk (Lincs), 6-2, 6-3; B Joelson (US) bt C Wilkinson (Hants), 7-6, 6-4; N Bruno (It) bt D Ison (Leics), 6-7, 7-6, 6-4; B Merenstein (Isr) bt A Dalponi (It), 7-6 6-4. Quarter-finals: Petchey bt Bale, 7-5, 6-2; Turner bt Bruno, 7-6, 5-7, 6-4; Fulwood bt Nydahl, 6-3, ret; Joelson bt Merenstein, 7-6, 7-6.

NORDIC SKIING

TRONDHEIM, Norway: World Cup high hill event: 1, H Kuttin (Austria), 220.1pts (115.0 metres, 119.0m); 2, M Martinsson (Swe), 202.7 (115.0, 110.5); 3, O Berg (Nor), 202.1 (110.5, 113.5); 4, H Bulau (Can), 191.6 (110.0, 109.0); 5, R Ylipulli (Fin), 191.4 (107.5, 111.0); 6, L Dluhos (Cz), 186.5 (109.5, 105.5).

RUGBY FIVES

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Clifton 131, Bloxham 85; Clifton Colts 152, Bloxham Colts 66; Felsted 109, Old Felstedians 158.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE: Second division: Bradford Northern 50, Rochdale Hornets 5.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Lydney 3, Gloucester 38; Merthyr 13, Pontypridd 18; Cheltenham 7, Bath 25; Penarth 16, Swansea University 37; Bristol 13, Exeter 6; Northampton 25, RAF 9.

FOUR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Greater Birmingham 21, Derbyshire 19.

DEWAR SHIELD: Semi-finals: Newport 11, Maesteg 9; Pontypridd 11, Cardiff 4.

SHOOTING

TWICKENHAM: British schools rifle championship: 1, Ellesmere Coll A, 1,535pts, equal 2, Ellesmere Coll B and Greshams, 1,528; 4, Solihull, 1,501. Individual: Senior: 1, S Brown (Ellesmere), 389. Junior: 1, A Rice-Jones (Ellesmere), 387.

SWIMMING

MILAN: World Cup meeting: Men: 800m freestyle: 1, U Dassler (Ger), 7min 58.90sec; 2, J Hoffmann (Ger), 7:59.26; 3, S Wiese (Ger), 7:59.71. Women: 800m freestyle: C Sossi (It), 8:25.09.

ETON FIVES

ETON: Barber Cup: Final: Old Cholmeleians bt Old Wellingtonians, 2-1. Eton Fives Association Trophy: Final: Old Olavians bt Old Salopians, 3-0.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Montreal Canadiens 4, Pittsburgh Penguins 4; Toronto Maple Leafs 4, Quebec Nordiques 3; Hartford Whalers 3, Washington Capitals 2; Minnesota North Stars 5, Buffalo Sabres 2; Calgary Flames 5, Winnipeg Jets 3; Los Angeles Kings 6, Philadelphia Flyers 0.

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: Premier division: Peterborough Pirates 17, Solihull Barons 2.

Decision deferred

The new coach of the United States national association football team will not be named until early next month, according to the US federation president, Alan Rothenberg. John Kowalski is serving in a caretaking capacity following the resignation of Bob Gansler in February.

FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated

FOOTBALL

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Coventry v Blackburn (7.0); Huddersfield v Aston Villa; Rotherham v Derby (7.0). Second division: Blackpool v Bradford (7.0); West Bromwich v Stoke (7.0).

FAI HARP LAGER: Challenge Cup: Kilkenny City v UCD (2.45); Limerick v Carndonagh (2.45).

BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES: Floodlight Trophy: Atherton LR v Great Harwood.

SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL: Victory Shield: Northern Ireland v Wales (at Ballinamallard, 12.0). Other match: English Schools Trophy: Semi-final: Sefton v Sunderland (Bootle 7.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Featherstone v Warrington.

SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE: Keighley v Ryedale York.

SATURDAY, 30th MARCH

OXFORD UNIV. -v- CAMBRIDGE UNIV.
THE VARSITY BOAT RACE & THE VARSITY FOOTBALL MATCH

This year Fulham F.C. are hosting the Varsity Football Match, kicking off at 11am with the Boat Race due to start at 13.20. With all the Hospitality Suites and Private Promenade at Craven Cottage looking directly out over the river, this is a unique opportunity to see two traditional Varsity Events while entertaining clients with top class hospitality.

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Barnes dilemma moving closer to a conclusion

By Ian Ross

AFTER more than nine months of negotiations, Liverpool's attempt to persuade John Barnes to stay in English football is finally nearing its end.

Barnes, the England international forward, is expected to announce in the next few weeks whether or not he is willing to pledge his immediate future to the Merseyside club by signing a new contract.

The indications are that Barnes, aged 27, will decide to leave the League champions at the end of this season to fulfil his long-held dream of playing on the Continent.

Liverpool's first attempt to convince Barnes he should remain at the club was made in May last year, with the offer of a substantially improved contract of unspecified length.

Barnes refused to sign, insisting that he required time in which to consider his numerous options before reaching a decision which he admitted constituted the most important of his career.

Talks, both formal and informal, have since been held between Barnes and Noel White, the Liverpool chairman, and Peter Robinson, the club's chief executive, on a regular basis but the player has still to announce his decision.

It may well be that negotiations will continue until the summer, when Barnes becomes a free agent on the expiry of the contract — signed when he joined Liverpool from Watford for £900,000 in 1987. "We are still negotiating with him and attempting to persuade him to stay at Liverpool," Robinson said.

If Barnes does decide to take his precocious talent abroad, Liverpool stand to lose an estimated £3 million.

Although he is conservatively valued at £4.5 million, Liverpool will collect no more than £1.5 million from his sale — the maximum transfer fee permitted by Uefa for deals involving players who are out of contract.

Barnes's reluctance to state whether he intends to remain at Liverpool almost certainly has its roots in his wish to join one of Italy's leading clubs.

At present, only Monaco and Marseilles have expressed a firm interest in buying him and, while a move to France would prove to be rewarding in a purely financial sense, it would be unlikely to enhance an international career which has been the subject of much debate since the World Cup finals last summer.

Kenny Dalglish, the former Liverpool manager, who signed Barnes, is thought to be considering coming out of retirement to play in a testimonial game for Ray Kennedy, the former England, Arsenal and Liverpool midfield player, who is suffering from Parkinson's disease.

A game between Arsenal and Liverpool has been scheduled for April 27 at Highbury, and Dalglish is one of Kennedy's former team-mates who is likely to be invited to take part.

"I know that I was lucky enough to play for the two greatest clubs in this country, and the way they have found time to arrange this game for me only proves that point," Kennedy said.

Scholar lays down conditions of sale

IRVING Scholar, the chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, last night laid down the conditions under which he would be prepared to allow a consortium to take over the club (Stuart Jones writes).

He was speaking to his potential successor, Terry Venables, who could become either the chief executive or the managing director.

The conditions are that Gascoigne would not be sold, that shares will be bought for a reasonable price (believed to be at least £1 each) and that the group has enough financial backing not only for the takeover bid of £20 million but also to buy players to strengthen the squad.

Tottenham were also involved in a Football League inquiry last night as the League were called in by Crystal Palace, who claim they are owed £31,905 in ticket sales by Spurs from last month's postponed game between the clubs.

Andy Williamson, the League assistant secretary, confirmed: "We have received a complaint from Palace and we are investigating." Palace say the money was due for payment on February 23.

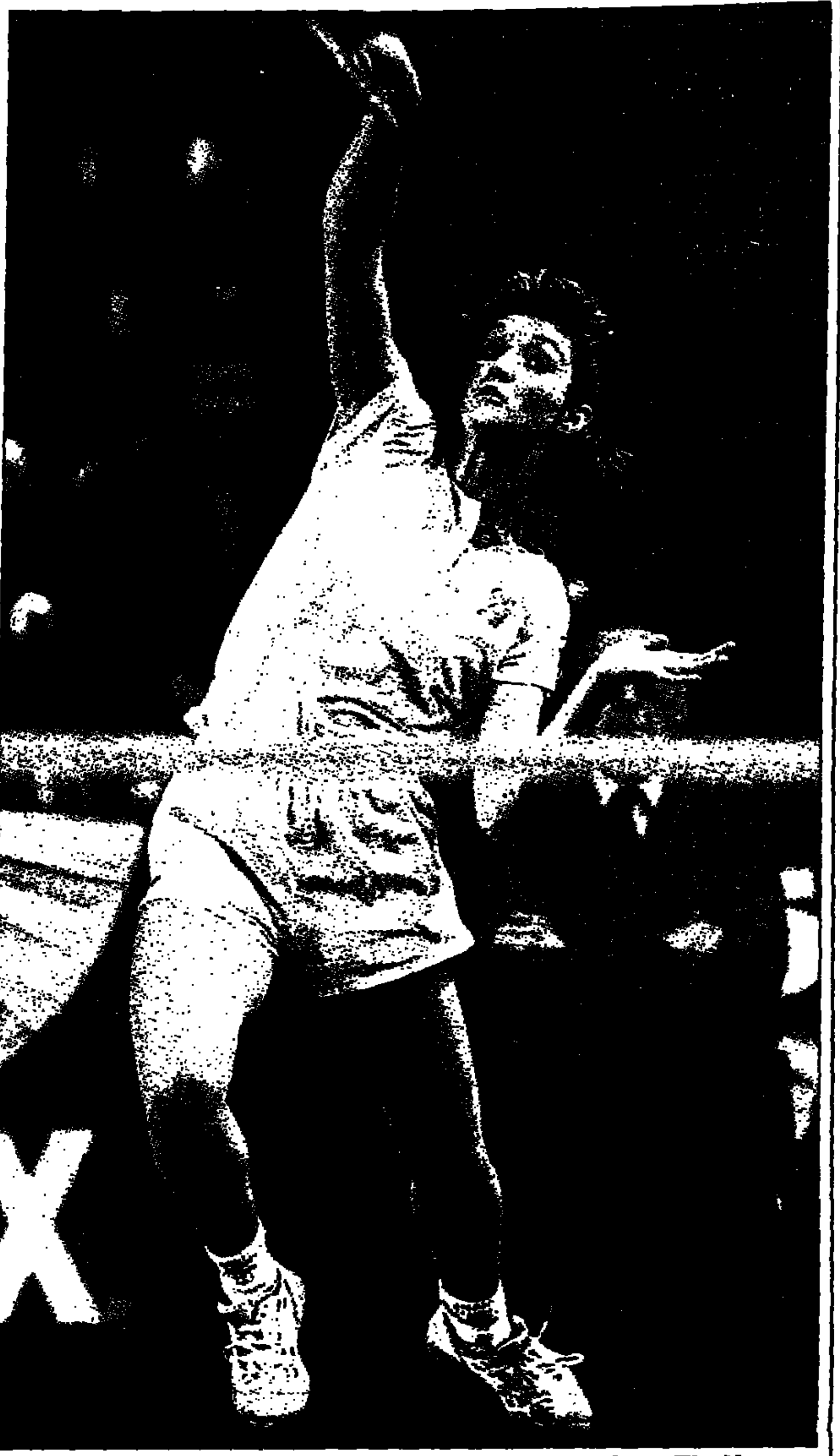
Spurs, meanwhile, will draw a large dividend from their FA Cup semi-final against Arsenal at Wembley next month and they would collect £440,000 as their share of the gate receipts alone if they went on to reach the first £2 million Final on May 18.

World Cup bid

South Korea, which staged the 1988 Olympic Games, is to bid for the World Cup football finals in 2002.

Champion makes a graceful exit

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Flying high: Bradbury rises to the challenge before narrow defeat at Wembley

Marsh leads onslaught by Australia

BRIDGETOWN (Reuter) — Geoff Marsh, the Australian opening batsman, hit a record-breaking 113 as the touring side piled up 283 for six in their 50 overs in the fourth one-day international against West Indies here yesterday. After nine overs of their reply, West Indies had reached 49 for the loss of Simmons and Haynes.

Marsh's eighth one-day century — a record for Australia — spurred his side to their highest score against West Indies in limited-overs cricket. Allan Border, the captain, who made 79 and Mark Waugh (49) provided strong support.

Such a large total seemed very unlikely when Australia, after electing to bat, slipped to 27 for two with Mark Taylor and Dean Jones both out cheaply. Neither looked comfortable, although Jones had hit Malcolm Marshall for six. But Curtly Ambrose, in particular, was enjoying the bounce in the Kensington Oval pitch. However, Marsh and Border then added 146 in 25 overs while Marsh and Mark Waugh put on 87 in 12, as Australia first consolidated and then ravaged the West Indian attack.

Marsh hit three sixes and eight fours in his 141-ball innings. Four other sixes were hit, the most stunning being Mark Waugh's off Marshall which was carved over point.

Waugh lashed his 49 from 31 balls before being run out by Ambrose following through, after the batsman had left his crease and slipped as he turned back.

Marshall conceded 42 runs in his last four overs and 67 off his quota of ten. Only Ambrose escaped a mauling, taking three for 38 from his ten overs. He got rid of Marsh and Waugh with yorkers in the penultimate over.

Marsh: in punishing form

AUSTRALIA	
M A Taylor c Dujon b Ambrose	5
G R Marsh b Ambrose	113
D M Jones c Walsh b Marshall	7
*A R Border c Ambrose b Hooper	79
M E Waugh run out	49
S R Waugh lbw b Ambrose	5
†I A Healy not out	6
C J McDermott not out	1
Extras (b 2, lb 7, w 4, nb 5)	18
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs)	283

P L Taylor, M R Whitney and B A Reid did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-27, 3-173, 4-260, 5-271, 6-276.

BOWLING: Ambrose 10-1-38-3 (w1, nb2); Marshall 10-1-67-1 (w2, nb3); Walsh 10-0-48-0; Simmons 8-0-37-0 (w1); Richards 4-0-29-0; Hooper 10-0-57-1.

WEST INDIES	
P V Simmons b McDermott	22
D L Haynes b Reid	22
R B Richardson not out	1
C G Greenidge not out	0
Extras	3
Total (2 wkts, 9 overs)	49

A L Logie, *I V A Richards, C L Hooper, †P J L Dujon, M D Marshall, C E L Ambrose and C A Walsh to bat.

☐ The England and Leicestershire all-rounder, Chris Lewis, is stepping up his campaign to be fit for the start of the new season.

Lewis, sent home from the tour of Australia with a stress fracture of the back, went to Lilleshall yesterday to start a physical fitness assessment programme.

☐ Suffolk have signed the former Middlesex and England batsman, Roland Butcher, who retired from the first-class game at the end of last summer.

Complaint by Clough

By Chris Moore

BRIAN Clough crossed swords with football's administrators again yesterday by describing as "barmy" the decision to revert to a 22-club first division next season.

"The demands on our best players are far too great as it is," the Nottingham Forest manager said. "Those idiots who run the game got a little bit of common sense in their minds a few seasons ago and cut our League down to 20 clubs.

"We are going back to 22. I'm telling you that's barmy," he said. "The question of finance will have influenced them a little bit. But outside of that I cannot think of one sensible reason for it.

"If you look through our squad that went to the World Cup last summer, many of the top players have since either taken a dip in form or suffered long-term injuries. David Platt has hardly kicked a ball for Aston Villa and Paul Gascoigne has been hanging on by his fingertips.

"I said last August I fully expected my three World Cup players, Steve Hodge, Des Walker and Stuart Pearce, to lose their level of performance some time this season because no professional player can play football for two seasons without having a break.

"Pearce is an absolute credit to the game and an inspiration to us, but he took his dip before Christmas and I think Walker is going through his now. It's a mental state as well as physical and there's nothing we can do about it."

Reflecting on Forest's progress to the semi-finals of the FA Cup, Clough said it was other people who were "obsessed" about the idea of him reaching the final for the first time.

"I've twice been within kicking distance of Wembley and if it comes along this season, it will come along," he said. "But this silly line I keep reading about your name being on the cup is nonsense. The only time your name goes on the cup is after you have won it. There are no names on anything before ties have been played or before draws have been made."

Go on, pick your nose.

Without wishing to sound unsavoury, we're asking you to consider which stonking fabulous nose you might wish to sport in support of Comic Relief this year. Really, you should be picking your nose right now. There are four different sizes and you should be able to get hold of all of them from now until Red Nose Day, Friday March 15th.

Smallest yet silliest are the new-look red noses, available from Woolworths, Oxfam and Save the Children shops for 60p. Woolworths also have Comic Relief T-Shirts, £6.99, Sweatshirts, £11.99 and childrens T-Shirts for £4.99, all profits going directly to Comic Relief.

Drive into a BP garage over the next few days and you'll be entering a Red Nose Zone, where you'll find Car Noses, £1.50, which make even the flashest car look ridiculous and Truck Noses, £5, especially for those wanting to help out in a big way.

The Building Noses at six by six feet are hugely popular and already putting a smile on many a discriminating building. They're £1000 so only for those genuinely claiming to have one of the biggest noses in Britain – Fax 071-436 1542. And although all the new noses have hands, it doesn't mean they'll be picking your nose for you.

COMIC RELIEF

MARCH 15TH IS RED NOSE DAY

Comic Relief is a wholly owned subsidiary of Charity Projects, Registered Charity Number 1967154. For further information please contact 4th Floor, 7 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3NN.

Illness takes its toll on Troke

By Richard Eaton

HELEN Troke, seeded to reach the quarter-finals, was beaten in her first match, and for the second successive year every English women's singles player was eliminated on the opening day of the Yonex All England badminton championships at Wembley yesterday.

Disappointing though this was, it was not, as last time, a complete disaster. Troke, beaten 11-7, 9-12, 11-2, by the Chinese teenager, Hu Ning. She nearly withdrew from the tournament with flu, but after taking penicillin decided to have a go anyway. "I shouldn't have played, but felt I was letting people down if I didn't," the former European and Commonwealth champion said.

Nevertheless, there were hints of future hope from England's other joint No. 1, Jo Muggeridge, and the English national champion, Julie Bradbury. Both won their opening matches and were close to winning again and reaching the last 16. The best effort came from Bradbury, still a part-timer, and yet bridging the gulf into genuine international class.

She beat a Danish qualifier, Birgitte Hindse, 11-7, 10-12, 11-4, to notch her first singles victory at the All England and then came very close to bringing down Harumi Kohhara, the No. 2 in Japan's bronze medal-winning Uber Cup team.

Bradbury lost 11-12, 11-3, 12-9, but was within an inch of reaching match point at 9-7 in the final game when a tight net shot landed fractionally out. She is fit, determined and much improved since last year and really deserves the sponsorship that would enable her to give up her job as an administrative assistant in an Oxfordshire old people's housing association.

England's joint No. 2 man, Steve Butler, also had a good win, surviving 15-10, 11-15, 17-14, against Kwan Yoke Meng, the No. 3 player in Malaysia's silver medal-winning Thomas Cup team. But the other No. 2, Anders Nielsen, was carried off with an ankle injury early in his match against European junior champion, Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen.

Results, page 37

£10,000 fine for Eubank

A HEAD butt by Chris Eubank cost him £10,000, yesterday, but the World Boxing Organisation middleweight champion took the punishment on the chin.

"I'm happy with the result," Eubank said after the British Board of Control also issued a severe reprimand, warning him about his future conduct.

Eubank was found guilty of bringing boxing into disrepute by butting Dan Sherry, the Canadian who was taunting him during a challenge for Eubank's title in Brighton on February 23. He was lucky not to be disqualified and lose his title.

"The fine is a lot of money to me, but I'm happy with the result," Eubank said. "I was totally wrong and have been reprimanded and warned. I accept the decision.

"The board is a fine body and has done good things for me in the past. Sherry called me names and stunned me. All I can say is that the impulse was wrong and I have paid the price."

Julian Critchley, the MP for Aldershot, and a board steward said: "It was a disgraceful incident."

Desert Orchid is going for gold

By Richard Evans

DESERT Orchid, the Pied Piper of British racing, will today attempt to play a new tune by becoming the first horse in history to regain the Gold Cup.

The nation's favourite racehorse, who has cost bookmakers tens of millions of pounds in losses over the years, seems certain to be sent off as the warm favourite after a change in the weather blunted the hopes of contenders needing soft ground.

Cheltenham might have been Royal Ascot yesterday as shirt-sleeved punters enjoyed cloudless skies and temperatures in the mid-60s.

Victory for Desert Orchid, following his success in the race two years ago, would be a severe setback for the bookmakers, who expect £10 million to be wagered on the Gold Cup.

"Desert Orchid has cost bookmakers an estimted £30 million during his racing career. Quite simply, when he wins, we lose," Mike Dillon, of Ladbrokes, said. "He is so popular, he has spawned his own range of bets. You can back Desert Orchid and name the winning distance and get 33-1 — or you can back him to be second."

Not many of his followers are likely to adopt the latter course, although the signals coming from the stable of David Elsworth yesterday were far from over confident.

"He's got a favourite's chance, and I hope he runs well, but I have a lot of respect for the other runners," Elsworth said.

After taking heavy losses on the opening day of the festival, bookmakers recouped some of them yesterday. Waterloo Boy, the heavily backed even-money favourite for the Queen Mother Champion Chase, was beaten seven lengths by Katabatic in the day's feature race.

Although Crystal Spirit, a highly impressive winner of the Sun Alliance Novices Hurdle, and Rolling Ball, victor in an Sun Alliance Chase which was full of incident, were well supported favourites, the final race of the day was a joy for bookmakers. Foyle Fisherman was 33-1 (69-1 on the Tote) for the Mildmay of Flete Challenge Cup.

O'Neill gamble, page 34

Pickard may put ball in Lloyd's court

By Andrew Longmore
Tennis Correspondent

COMMENT

IF TWO and two make four, and in British tennis that is not always the case, Tony Pickard's first call as the new Davis Cup captain will be to the delightfully named Pacific Palisades on the outskirts of Los Angeles. There to find John Lloyd, another whose talent has been spurned for too long by the Lawn Tennis Association.

Despite a difference in age of nearly 20 years, Lloyd and Pickard have become good friends since the early Seventies when Pickard had a brief — and, it must be said, unsuccessful — spell as Davis Cup captain and Lloyd was beginning to make his mark on the game. Pickard gave Lloyd his first chance in the Davis Cup against West Germany in 1973.

For much of the last decade they have been fellow travellers. Both persistent critics of the LTA's methods; both successful elsewhere, Pickard with Edberg and Lloyd, in recent years, as a coach and player on the lucrative over-35s circuit; both desperate to see a change in the fortunes of British tennis. Neither needs a job with the LTA.

But now that the LTA has persuaded Pickard back into its ranks, the partnership could be renewed. One of Pickard's first tasks is to find a Davis Cup coach, someone who can work with the players when he is otherwise occupied with Edberg. Lloyd, who has already had a ringing endorsement from the British No. 1, Jeremy Bates, would be the ideal choice, if he could be persuaded that he was working for Pickard, not the LTA. Ian Peacock, the chief executive of the LTA, confirmed two days ago that Lloyd and Ian Barclay, another highly respected coach, who took Pat Cash to the Wimbledon title and is based in London, would be contacted about their availability.

Lloyd was surprised and delighted at Pickard's return. But he was also a little suspicious. "It's a very positive step and it's great that he has taken on the job," Lloyd said. "He'll do it well. If Tony asked me to help and he was the person hiring and firing me, I would love to become involved with the Davis Cup team. It would be a great honour." Lloyd added: "The one thing that worries me is that Tony won't be given enough power to do what he needs."

The changes have also been backed by the players and elsewhere in the game. Nick Brown, the British No. 2, saw at first hand last weekend what Olga Morozova, another new recruit to the LTA, has done to revitalise the Rover School at Bisham Abbey in two months and feels that Pickard's influence will be the same. "Olga has completely changed the atmosphere down at Bisham. She has such presence that it cannot fail to rub off on the young players there.

"Tony is the same sort of character and, if he teamed up with John Lloyd, I know they would have the players' respect. For a start, the team would be more disciplined and better organised. With Richard Lewis as well, it really feels as if we are going in the same direction and that hasn't happened for a while."

Dave Emery, the coach of Winchester Tennis Club and organiser of the Star Search scheme for juniors, is equally enthusiastic about the new direction the LTA seems to be taking.

"It's very positive because Tony has achieved at the highest level and has the international experience. My own feeling is that he should work as much as possible with our talented juniors and not so much with the present Davis Cup players. It all depends how much time he can devote to the job and how much power he is given.

"But at long last we have got some people up there who know what they're doing. If, for example, we had John Lloyd, Mark Cox and Tony all working together, we would have a definite chance for the future."

The extent of Pickard's control was largely passed over in the hatchet-burying which accompanied hi appointment on Tuesday. But it wil become apparent all too soon a Pickard tries to prepare his team for tricky Davis Cup tie on clay i Warsaw in May. Pickard will want t know where and how his team proposing to prepare for the tie in th coming weeks and he will make h presence felt if he feels its schedul are not right. It could be one of th shorter honeymoons on record.